

EOMF to host talks on First Nations view of forests

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The Vankeek Hill Review
September 7/11 pgA15

CASSELMAN – In an effort to better understand forests and our relationship with them, the Eastern Ontario Model Forest (EOMF) will be hosting a series of talks that will share the First Nations view of forests and their importance.

The talks will take place on September 13 at the South Nation Conservation (SNC) office in Finch and in Casselman on September 28. The location of the Casselman presentation will be announced in the near future.

As part of its commitment under its Forest Certification Program, the EOMF is working with its First Nations partners, Plenty Canada, SNC, and the Woodlot Advisory Service to raise awareness, throughout the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Forest Region, of traditional forestry values.

Presentations will begin at 9 a.m. with a traditional opening and discussion on the Wampum

Belts and traditional territories. Speakers will include Elder Henry Lickers with the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne; Chris Craig from SNC; and Larry McDermott, member of the Sbabot Obaadjiwan First Nation and representative of Plenty Canada.

At 10:30 a.m., Craig, along with other speakers, will discuss forest values. Topics will include timber and non-timber forest products, medicinal and edible plants, arts and crafts and live demonstrations of birch bark canoe building and black ash basket making.

Around 11:30 a.m., McDermott will speak about traditional knowledge, stewardship, partnership and biodiversity.

Lunch will take place at 12:30 p.m. and will feature a variety of traditional foods, followed by an interpretive field tour at 1:45 p.m.

The tour will take place on woodlots certified with SNC. Registration is \$20 and space is limited, so people are encouraged to register early. To register, please contact Mary at 613-258-8241 or e-mail mhumphries@eomf.on.ca.