

Ontario Biodiversity Science Forum Workshop  
**Identifying the State of Science and Knowledge, and Critical Gaps**

4 May 2009  
The Faculty Club  
41 Willcocks Street  
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1C7  
CANADA



## **Background**

The Ontario Biodiversity Science Forum was first proposed under the 2005 Ontario Biodiversity Strategy, a document that aims to conserve Ontario's biodiversity so that a healthy environment, strong communities, and thriving economy are realized. The strategy involves protecting Ontario's diverse ecosystems and species of flora and fauna, as well as using Ontario's natural resources in a sustainable way.

As outlined in the Ontario Biodiversity Strategy, the purpose of Science Forum is to focus the biodiversity science agenda and foster science partnerships by identifying knowledge gaps and recommending science priorities in areas such as:

- Improving our understanding of ecosystem functions and relationships
- Evaluating existing and aiding the development of new habitat/ecosystem and species/population management guides, best management practices and other conservation tools
- Improving our understanding of the economic and non-economic valuation of biodiversity
- Identifying gaps in available expertise and recommending solutions to address such gaps
- Providing direction to science needs and initiatives to support biodiversity conservation
- Supporting enhanced science transfer and training

## **Goals of the Workshop**

1. Provide peer review of the white papers presented.
2. Focus the biodiversity science agenda and foster science partnerships by:
  - a. Identifying the State of Science and Knowledge, and Critical Gaps
    - i. Improving our understanding of ecosystem functions and relationships
    - ii. Identifying gaps in available expertise (e.g., Ontario taxonomy/systematics) and recommending solutions to address such gaps
  - b. Evaluating existing and aiding the development of new habitat/ecosystem and species/population management guides, best management practices and other conservation tools
    - i. Identify indicators
    - ii. Assess outcomes
    - iii. Conduct adaptive management
3. Highlight the Role of Science, Determine How to Achieve Biodiversity Goals, and Identify Linkages between Science and Policy

## Agenda

*Date: Monday, 4 May, 2009*

*8:00 am – 4:45 pm*

8:00 – 8:40 Registration – Continental breakfast served  
8:40 – 9:00 Welcome and Introduction

### ***Session 1: What do we know – State of Science and Knowledge, and Critical Gaps***

9:00 – 9:20 *Topic: Ontario Biodiversity Knowledge/ Information/ Expertise Gaps*  
*Speaker: Bill Crins, Ministry of Natural Resources*  
9:20 – 9:40 *Topic: State of Ontario's Forest Birds*  
*Speaker: Debbie Badzinski, Bird Studies Canada*  
9:40 – 10:00 *Topic: Allowable Harm Analysis, Restoration Potential of SAR*  
*Speaker: Marten Koops, Department of Fisheries and Oceans*  
10:00 – 10:15 Break  
10:15 – 11:25 Feedback session  
11:25 – 11:40 Break – Light refreshments served

### ***Session 2: How do we use what we know – Evaluating and aiding the development of new habitat/ecosystem and species/population management guides, best management practices and other conservation tools***

11:40 – 12:00 *Topic: Evaluating the effectiveness of forest management guidelines for conserving biodiversity and ecological processes*  
*Speaker: Rob Rempel, Ministry of Natural Resources*  
12:00 – 12:20 *Topic: How is policy informed by science?*  
*Speaker: To be determined, Ministry of Natural Resources*  
12:20 – 1:30 Feedback session  
1:30 – 2:30 Lunch

### ***Session 3: Plenary Session – Report back from feedback sessions, moving forward, next steps for biodiversity science***

2:30 – 2:45 Facilitator overview  
2:45 – 3:45 Report back from feedback sessions  
3:45 – 4:30 Moving forward/ Next steps for biodiversity science  
4:30 – 4:45 Closing/ Wrap up

For more information, please contact:  
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## Registration Form

Registration forms and payment must **be received by Wednesday, 22 April 2009**.

Please complete this form (type or print) and return with your payment:

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Middle Initial: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Company/Institution: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal Code/ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Country: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Requirements (Diet, Disabled): \_\_\_\_\_

Workshop Fee - \$50 /person

Full payment of the registration fee must accompany the registration form.

- I enclose a cheque (CDN or USA bank) for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to:  
“University of Toronto – Biodiversity Workshop”
- Please charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my credit card with the following details:

VISA \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_ (check one)

Name on Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_ Start Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_  
CVC Number (last 3 digits on signature strip) \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please send (*for the most prompt service, please email*) this registration form with fee to:

George Buckton  
Faculty of Forestry  
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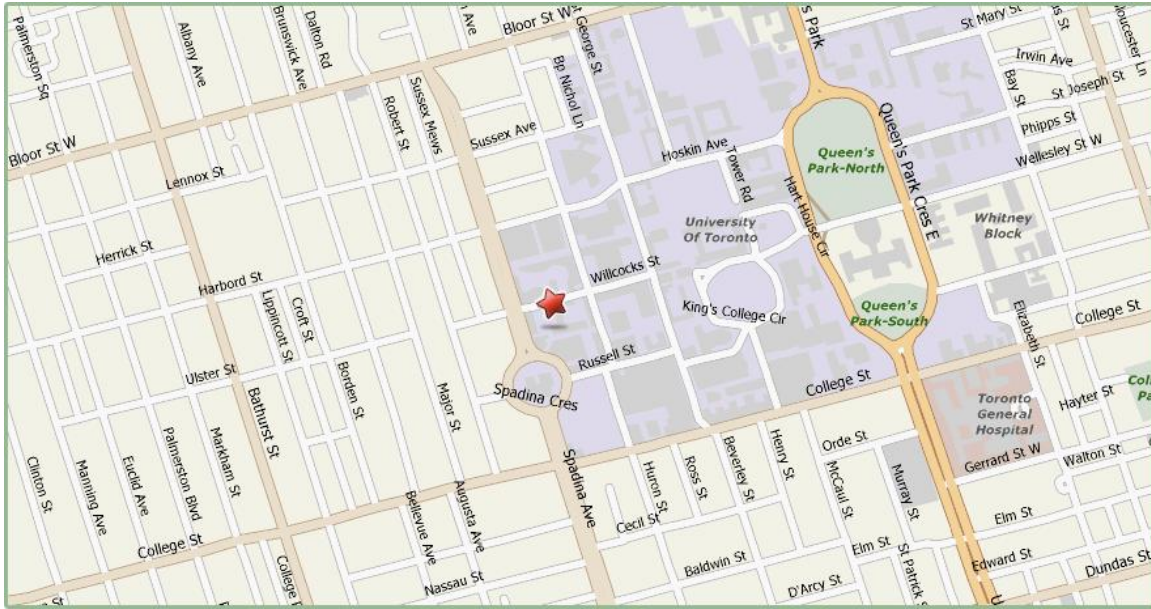
Email: [g.buckton@utoronto.ca](mailto:g.buckton@utoronto.ca)  
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## Location, Map, & Parking

The Faculty Club  
41 Willcocks Street  
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1C7  
CANADA

## Date

Monday, 4 May, 2009



### Public Parking:

<http://rrs.osm.utoronto.ca/map/?p=110:1:1418432106147201146>

### U of T Parking:

<http://www.fs.utoronto.ca/Assets/Parking+forms/Campus+Parking+Map+2008-2009.pdf?method=1>