



Heart of the Continent Partnership

Working together to sustain and celebrate the lakes, forests and communities on the Ontario/Minnesota border

Heart of the Continent Partnership Quarterly General Meeting Friday & Saturday, June 1st and 2nd, 2012 Neebing, Ontario (& Thunder Bay Field Trip)

Day 1 (June 1st): Friday Morning—Pre-Meeting Field Trip Thunder Bay Waterfront: Prince Arthur's Landing at Marina Park

10:00 am EDT: Tour of Thunder Bay Waterfront ([flyer and directions on website](#))

To kick off the Heart of the Continent Partnership Quarterly Meeting, participants are invited to gather on Friday, June 1st at 10:00 am at the Thunder Bay Waterfront at Prince Arthur's Landing and Marina. Meet at the Baggage Building next to the skating rink. Celebrate the Sister Cities of Thunder Bay and Duluth connected by the North Shore Scenic Drive "Two Nations – One Route." During this walking tour of the new waterfront development, you'll learn how Thunder Bay has successfully transformed a challenging public space into a community asset and targeted tourism destination. Economic growth and public lands have connected to create a thriving and dynamic urban, mixed-use area.

11:00 am EDT: Travel from Thunder Bay to Neebing (40 minute drive)

Day 1 (June 1st): Friday Afternoon and Evening—General Meeting [Mink Mountain Resort, Neebing, Ontario](#) 240 Mink Mountain Drive, Neebing, Ontario P7L 0C1

12:00 noon EDT: Lunch at Mink Mountain Resort. Catered. Pre-Registration required.

1:00 pm EDT: Opening Welcome & Introductions

1:15 pm EDT: Ontario Parks Overview. Senior Park Planner, Julie Sullivan, will give a presentation on the history and organization of Ontario Parks.

1:45 pm EDT: Sister Sites Arrangement. The Canadian and U.S. federal agencies who manage land in the Heart of the Continent region recently signed a [Sister Sites Arrangement](#), pledging to seek ways of working together on joint projects in their respective public lands for mutual benefit. We'll hear about that arrangement and discuss if/how it might be used as a model for cooperation among more local units of government, and/or among smaller organizations on both sides of the border.

2:15 pm EDT: Heritage River Application Update. Currently the Pigeon River to Lac La Croix is designated as a Canadian Heritage River. A committee has nominated the section from Lac La Croix to Lake of the Woods for designation as Heritage River as well. We'll get an update on the status of that effort.

2:45 pm EDT: National Geographic Geotourism Website Joint Project. In the wake of last October's International Community Congress, the National Geographic Society has expressed a strong interest in collaborating with Heart of the Continent Partnership to develop a geotourism website highlighting the region. The development of such a site would involve local input as to tourism destinations to facilitate wise stewardship of cultural, historic, and natural resources. We'll discuss if and how to proceed on this potential partnership.

3:15 pm EDT: Break

3:45 pm EDT: Border Crossing Issues. We have invited border officials from each country to discuss border crossing issues, current barriers, how to improve outcomes for everyone.

4:45 pm EDT: Community Congress Team Updates. Ten teams of community leaders are currently implementing the action plans they developed in last October's International Community congress. Teams will present an update of their progress and discussion on next steps will follow.

5:45 pm EDT: Adjourn

6:00 pm EDT: Dinner at Mink Mountain Resort. Catered. Pre-Registration required.

7:30 pm EDT: Public Lecture, "The human history of Lake Superior Basin: The long view." Dr. Scott Hamilton, Dept of Anthropology, Lakehead University, will present a slide lecture addressing the broad sweep of human history in the Lake Superior basin, from shortly after deglaciation to the early history of Canada's development as a transcontinental nation.

Day 2 (June 2nd): Saturday Morning—Trail Work Mink Mountain Resort, Neebing, Ontario

7:30 am EDT: Breakfast at Mink Mountain Resort. Catered. Pre-Registration required.

8:30 am EDT: Trail work at Pigeon River Provincial Park. We'll be celebrating National Trails Day by going to Pigeon River Provincial Park to work with Ontario Park staff on trail maintenance. HOCP partners place a high value on getting out on the land, learning first-hand about the public lands around the region. To that end, meetings rotate to different locations throughout the 2.2 million hectares of this trans-boundary natural area, and we try to get outside for a good portion of our time together. ***Bring gloves, boots, outdoor clothing, sunscreen and insect repellent (tick alert).***

Noon EDT: Lunch catered. \$10:00 cash. Chili lunch, provided by and fundraiser for the Neebing Volunteer Fire Department. **Cash** paid directly to the volunteers on site.

1:00 EDT: Adjourn

Optional: Afternoon sessions with International Community Congress Community teams

Please Pre-Register Online by May 20th

<http://www.heartofthecontinent.org/2012/04/26/meeting-june-1-2-2012-in-neebing-on/>

(please register on or before May 20th if possible,
to help with food ordering and lodging logistics)

Lodging

(Please book your own lodging – local options are limited)

1. **Lodging at Mink Mountain: Register by May 20th:** The Resort where we're holding the meeting has a limited number of small cabins, as various occupancy sizes, rates, and sleeping accommodations (double beds, pullout couches, etc). Please call Mink Mountain (1-888-616-6465) directly to book a cabin. **Or if you'd like to join in with other folks to share a cabin, you can let us know by May 20th,** and we will help coordinate cabin sharing.
2. **Lodging (off site):** Nearest alternatives, Best Western Norwester 1-800-528-1234, south of Thunder Bay; Grand Portage Lodge and Casino 1-800-543-1384 (both are about a 40 minute drive.).
3. **Tent:** there will be a limited number of informal tent sites.

Meals

(Please pay on-site: Cash or Check only, & Cash preferred)

Meals: Pre-Register Online by May 20th. This is a resort in a small village, so meals will be arranged together and catered. There are not other places to eat close-by. (Note: We have noticed that sharing meals has been one of the strongest ways leaders have built new working relationships at HOCP meetings.)

All Meals: \$70.00 *(itemized below, if you'll only be there for some)*

Friday Lunch: Soup and sandwich \$17.00 *(includes tax and gratuity)*

Friday Supper: BBQ Burgers and Sausage with green salad and potato salad \$24.00
(includes tax and gratuity)

Sat Breakfast: scrambled eggs, sausage, home fries, toast, etc. \$19.00 (*includes tax and gratuity*)

Saturday Lunch at Pigeon River: Chili, bread, desert, juice. \$10.00. This is a fundraiser for the Neebing Volunteer Fire Department. **Cash** paid directly to the volunteers on site.

Please state any dietary restrictions i.e. gluten free or vegetarian

Questions??

Lynda Horman, Kakabeka Falls Provincial Park
807-473-9231 Ext 223 or lynda.horman@ontario.ca

Bret Hesla, Coordinator, HOCP
612-333-1858 or hocp@heartofthecontinent.org
www.heartofthecontinent.org