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County forests to be explored during conference

Truro Daily News

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DEBERT – Old forests will be the topic of a three-day conference in Debert this week.

The Mersey Tobetic Research Institute is hosting the old forests conference, which begins Wednesday, as part of a series of annual conservation science meetings.

The two main days of the conference will include field trips and speakers from across the Maritimes.

"We bring together researchers who know about forest science as well as the people making decisions on the ground to share information and work together in the spirit of collaboration," said Amy Berry, one of the conference organizers.

Field trips are planned to explore five different forests in the Debert area, including Portapique Wilderness Area and Truro's Victoria Park.

"Victoria Park is a great example of an urban old forest that people can easily access and get a sense of what it is like to walk among big old trees," said Jamie Simpson, one of the co-leaders of the Victoria Park field trip and author of the book *Journeys into Eastern Old Growth Forests*.

Conference talks will range from botany and wildlife biology to policy and culture, as participants explore the science of old forests and how people connect with and manage the forest.

People interested in registering for the conference can email register@merseytobetic.ca (<mailto:register@merseytobetic.ca>).

For more information on the conference and guest speakers, visit trurodaily.com.

