

The Beacon

APRIL 2017

Continued success and positive outlook for the future ... good reasons to encourage new folks to join us

Heading into 2017 there are many traditional and new activities which provide wonderful volunteer opportunities to help The Friends of Presqu'ile Park achieve our goals.

Membership in The Friends of Presqu'ile Park requires only a desire to help the environment at Presqu'ile and a willingness to share the wonders of our special Park with young and old alike.

We cannot fulfil these desires without many hands contributing in a wide variety of ways through volunteerism.

Here is a peek at what we have done, continue to support, and hope to undertake in the upcoming years.

EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES
Again this year we will be providing **extraordinary educational support** to a wide variety of constituents:

Children from our community and further afield through our **Kids 'n Nature** Summer Day Camps. Parents and grandparents alike send their little ones to this camp — registration fills up quickly.

We support school classes and the current Ontario curriculum by offering trained naturalists and educators to provide hands-on demonstrations and outdoor education. Busloads of school classes attend the Park but it is The Friends who provide the educational experience by managing, training, programming, and paying the salaries of these educators. **Without The Friends there would be no programs.**

NHE (Natural Heritage Education) program support is provided by The Friends, who pay salaries for summer staff who run the Nature Centre and offer the many programs for Park visitors and campers.

ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES
We continue to undertake various annual activities to give nature (the flora and fauna) a helping hand and fund scientific research in the following ways:

Helping endangered species' populations expand, like the turtles, by protecting them from vehicular danger and predation, which could overwhelm fragile populations such as the Common Tern.

Removal of invasive species of plants is an ongoing and extremely difficult challenge, and an effort to understand new science and promote active experimentation (Phragmites control) is ongoing.

TRAIL MONITORING AND REPAIRS
This is more than an enjoyable walk in the woods as it requires many hands, and feet too, to make our trails more pleasant to use.

These volunteers ensure that litter is removed and trails are safe to walk, and are clear of fallen branches.

Repairs and expansion of foot bridges over wet areas are an annual activity ensuring more access to our beautiful Park.

EXPANSION OF SUPPORT
Our 2017 Business and Financial Plan lays out particulars for continuation of

(Continued on page 2)



Board of Directors

John Cockburn
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David Crouch — *Treasurer*
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Phil McRae — *Vice-Chair*
Peter Ramsden
Ian Savill
Steve Sinclair — *Chair*

The Friends of Presqu'ile Park

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(Continued from page 1)

the many activities our members expect and it points out a need to establish a longer view for future years.

LONG-TERM PLANS

Your Board spent time at our October meeting to learn, from Rob Cunningham, our Park Superintendent, about areas for future development of activities which fit with the Park's and The Friends' longer-term vision for the Park. At a recent Board meeting, eight intriguing areas passed the first stage of assessment. Some may take considerable effort and collaboration but others could start as early as the fall of 2017 and definitely happen within 2018. More details will be shared at our Annual General Meeting in June, and clearly more help will be needed.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP US OUT

In order for us to make progress we need help from our members now and must appeal to you all to consider joining us in this expansion effort. New members will bring new energy and skills and your help in recruiting friends and family to consider joining the Friends of Presqu'ile is needed. Please share this issue of the Beacon with those who may just need a little encouragement to become part of our wonderful organization.

Just one example of a role that is new, and would be very helpful to our Communications Team, is to recruit someone with **Photography** skills. Taking, editing, and cataloguing pictures is a skill we really need. This could be an expansion of a current hobby or a new outlet for creativity.

I cannot stress how very much we appreciate all of our volunteers who do a lot for us and still at the same time appeal for more. It is an opportunity for us to further improve as 'new blood' can bring many benefits to allow us to continue to be successful and also to expand.

Please check out our website

www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca/get-involved

for more information and get in touch with us

through any Board Member by e-mail at info@friendsofpresquile.on.ca or contact me.

Steve Sinclair, Chair, The Friends of Presqu'ile Park
chair@friendsofpresquile.on.ca Telephone: 416 303 5285



The Friends' BBQ at the Lighthouse Photo: B Ramsden

The Friends of Presqu'ile Park is a non-profit charitable association of volunteers dedicated to enhancing the educational, interpretive, and scientific research programs at Presqu'ile Provincial Park.

**Notice of Annual General Meeting
of The Friends of Presqu'ile Park**

Saturday, June 3, 2017

Coffee at 10:00 am - AGM starts at 10:30 am

Stonehedge, Lighthouse Lane, Presqu'ile Provincial Park

Volunteering gives you an opportunity to change lives, including your own.

April 1st News Flash - the paper-trail has ended!

(Spoiler alert, this is not an April Fool's joke.)

As of April 1st, 2017, The Friends of Presqu'ile have an active, on-line system for joining the membership; registering for the **Kids 'n Nature** program and Christmas at Presqu'ile Arts and Crafts Show; making donations; and volunteering.

Activities that have previously been handled by paper documents and cheques are now available through The Friends' web page. Here the forms can be accessed, detailed information entered, and payment made by credit card. With this system in place the detailed information gathered will be stored on a main server with all the current safeguards in place for secure retention.

The on-line registration system is a way to improve the level of communication between The Friends and its many contributors. This system allows members to change their own personal details, thus ensuring that they continue to receive the communications sent out by The Friends. Also, it helps to reduce the workload of the many volunteers needed to process and respond to these contributors using a paper-trail system.

The paper-trail system will remain in place whilst there are contributors who still prefer this type of system. However, it will eventually be eliminated by the transition to the on-line system.

Through the on-going work of The Friends' webmaster (Donal Gray) and the people at OSM Websites in Belleville, this system has been designed to be straightforward and easy to use

Changes can be made to personal information as and when it occurs. Confirmation of these changes is then ensured by a system-generated response using the new information. All this is in the name of safety and security of the collected data.

Further enquiries can be made through the e-mail address shown below.

The Friends of Presqu'ile Park
Telephone: 613 475 5460 * Fax: 613 475 2209
E-mail: info@friendsofpresquile.on.ca
Website: www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca

When you shop at The Friends' Lighthouse Gift Shop, or join us at our Saturday BBQs, or support our Raffles and Christmas at Presqu'ile, ALL of the proceeds remain in Presqu'ile Park.

A fond farewell

Since 2007, I have been very privileged to be the Editor of The Beacon and oversaw the organic growth from an eight-page newsletter that was printed in black and white and had a limited print run of 300 or so. Copies were sent out by snail mail to our members, having been carefully folded and inserted in envelopes by May and Bill Wilson.

Today it is produced in full colour, the number of pages is limited only by the amount of information The Friends have to share, and it is sent out electronically to hundreds of

individuals. We also post issues of The Beacon on our website so our readership is much broader.

In July 2016, Pete and I moved to Kincardine and we have since supported the new communication team during our handover.

They have taken the reins and are doing very well and have lots of great ideas so this will be my last issue as Editor of The Beacon.

The Friends of Presqu'ile Park is a very special group for us and we know its future is in good hands.

Jenny Alker



Volunteers wanted ... a sense of humour is essential ...
The Friends are grateful for whatever time and skills you are able to give.

The Friends are growing on-line

The Friends have steadily increased its use of electronic media over recent years, mainly concentrating on improving the website and electronic mail. After much debate and consideration we decided to embrace Facebook and Twitter in partnership with Ontario Parks.



Today we have a web site, a Facebook page, an Instagram account, and a Twitter feed. These will soon be joined by a YouTube account. It's not just that we have all these additional means of communication but our exploitation of their possibilities is changing fast.

By the time you read this, our web site will be enabled to take secure on-line payments for memberships, donations, and fees for the **Kids N Nature** program (see Janine McClintock's article in this issue for more detail), but it doesn't end there.

One of the ways we know our web site works is because of the numbers of you that use it. In the first quarter of 2017, we had:

Unique visitors	9,278
Number of visits	20,618
Pages visited	100,749

Most of our visits were from Canada and, not surprisingly, from the USA. But we also had a large number of visits from the UK, France, Russia, and China.

It appears that people don't just visit and go either. The figures indicate that many people come back more than once and that, when they visit, they look at multiple pages.

The Beacon itself has changed from a print publication to an on-line publication based on the print model which is what you are reading today.



As we move forward, The Beacon will change again to a web-based format which will allow you more choice on what you read. It will allow us to understand what stories are important to you based on what you read. That way The Beacon will be based on actual viewing statistics per story and will be more responsive to what you want.

All of this, combined with the immediacy of Facebook and Twitter, plus the video capabilities of YouTube, means that we will be able to inform you in ways that were not previously possible.

Peter Ramsden

Facebook www.facebook.com/PresquilePP
Twitter <https://twitter.com/PresquilePP>
Instagram www.instagram.com/presquilepp

Buy your Bushnell Optics Raffle tickets at the Lighthouse Interpretive Centre.

Tickets are \$2 each, 3 for \$5.

Bushnell Spotting Scope and Tripod

The draw will be held at the end of Warblers and Whimbrels Weekend at 4:00 pm, on Sunday, May 21, 2017.

Four new themes for 2017 — Register now Kids 'n Nature Summer Camps

Parents and grandparents are busy signing up for our **2017 Kids 'n Nature Summer Camps!**

New this year is our fully on-line registration process.

We offer 4 five-day nature and outdoor adventure camps, each with nature-based games, crafts, learning activities, hiking, and 3 beach afternoons.

In addition, there will be special activities based on the following themes:

July 17 to 21: Treasure Island

Land ho! Experience Presqu'ile through the eyes of the infamous Pirate Bill Johnson who knew these waters like no other. Hone your map reading skills and bring your finest telescope to help search for hidden treasure as we take the plunge into Presqu'ile's exciting naval history.

July 31 to August 3: Lilypad Leapers

A 'ribbeting' week awaits as you explore Presqu'ile's aquatic habitats to learn all about the plants and animals that live there. Catch a tadpole in the marsh, then cool yourself off in the lake while learning all about life cycles and how everything is connected.

August 14 to 18: Animal Planet

Prepare to be amazed as you discover, learn, and get up close and personal with the creatures all around you! Immerse yourself in the sounds of the forest or make a splash in the marsh. Just make sure to remember your rubber boots. Let's get wild!

August 21 to 25: Presqu'ile Olympics

Swim, hop, or leap to compete to be Presqu'ile's top athlete. On your journey to the podium learn how animals struggle against each other for the resources they need to survive.



Some of our very happy campers

Photo: Caroline Birch

Camp spots are limited.

If there is a child in your life that would love to attend, avoid disappointment and sign up today! The cost per child per week is \$130.

For more information and registration forms, please contact The Friends of Presqu'ile by calling **613 475 1688, ext. 3**, e-mailing kidsn.nature@friendsofpresquile.on.ca or visiting www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca

Janine McClintock

*We cannot always build the future for our youth,
but we can build our youth for the future.*



Finding Tomorrow's Leaders Today

NEW — The Friends of Presqu'ile Park Bursary Program

Four Student Employee Bursaries and a Career Bursary

Visitors to Presqu'ile Provincial Park have grown accustomed to seeing the smiling faces of the Park staff, who greet them at the gate, keep the beaches and buildings safe and clean, and run the interpretive programs, the stores, and the Nature Centre. What many visitors don't realize is that most of the Park's employees are summer students.

There are many wonderful young people working as student employees in Presqu'ile Provincial Park. Each summer, the Park and The Friends of Presqu'ile hire over 60 staff. Their work is crucial to the success of the Park and its programs. We wish to recognize their work and encourage them to grow and develop for the future.

The Friends of Presqu'ile Park are pleased to announce the launch of two new Bursary Programs for the 2017 summer season. These bursaries are open to all students working in Presqu'ile Park.

The bursaries will reward exceptional workers, encourage post-secondary education, improve the image of working in all departments of the Park, and will support The Friends' Mission, Vision, and Values.

We all know that tuition, books, etc. are a massive item for young people at a time when they don't have the income to support it. The bursaries are designed to assist with these expenses and ease the career path of exceptional young people.



Student Employee Bursaries

These bursaries will be open to all student employees of the Park who intend to return to full-time education or trades training in the fall.

There will be **four \$500 bursaries** available, one for each of the four departments in the Park – Maintenance, Store, Gate, and Natural Heritage Education (NHE) which includes the Nature Centre, NHE Interpreters, and **Kids 'n Nature** Camp.

Each department is equally important to the success of the operation of the Park. That is why The Friends wants to make sure that the students get recognized for their hard work.

The next time you visit the Park, take a look at all the vibrant young people working hard to make your visit a

pleasant one. When you see a star performer in action, let us know.

Students can be nominated for their exemplary service and/or excellent work. Anyone who makes that extra effort could be a winner.

Nominations can come from the public, co-workers, supervisors, or senior park staff.

Nomination forms will be available in June. You will find them on our website, in the Park Office, at the Nature Centre, and at the Lighthouse Interpretive Centre.

If you don't have a nomination form, simply leave us a note at the Park Office or on our website. We will follow up with you.

An Awards Committee will select the winning candidates and present them with their bursaries before the end of August in time to apply the funds to their fall semester expenses.

An extra \$500 will certainly help pay for books or tools. The boost that comes from having your good work recognized should help when motivation flags during the long school season.



Career Bursary

The purpose of this bursary is to promote careers in the parks among our student employees. Eligibility would be limited to those returning post-secondary students in a field of study that would lead to a career in our parks.

There are well over 20 possible fields of study with a clear link to a parks career. Students would be expected to explain their program of study and career goals in their application.

Candidates would also require the support of their supervisor who could address the employee's work accomplishments along with their leadership and teamwork skills.

Only **one bursary is available each year; it is for \$1,000.**

The Awards Committee will review the applications. If a suitable candidate is found, the bursary will be given out before the end of August.

Natural Heritage Education (NHE) at Presqu'ile

Our Friends

What would we do without them?



NHE staff, supported by The Friends, deliver numerous summer educational programs Photo: D Davis

The Friends of Presqu'ile's mandate is to support educational and environmental initiatives in the Park. It is the former that I am most appreciative of, as it is the education department that I run at the Park. Our department is called Natural Heritage Education (NHE) and our goal is to help people connect with our natural world as well as our cultural heritage. Traditionally we do that through personal programming (mostly in the summer), interpretive signs throughout the Park, displays in our two visitor centres, and articles in our information guide (tabloid) and other print media. There is not one aspect of this suite of tools we use that The Friends are not there assisting us with.

By far and away the best way to connect with people and help them connect with our resources is through personal contact. The NHE staff do this through our programs and interacting with people in the Lighthouse Centre and Nature Centre. To do this we need people.

Having two visitor centres open all day, every day in the summer, AND offer 2 to 3 programs a day takes bodies, and we like to think not just any bodies but personable, well-trained interpreters.

Fully 1/3 of our NHE summer staff is directly supported by The Friends of Presqu'ile. We could not provide the level of programming we do without The Friends. And

this not an easy commitment for The Friends to make on one level. This is one of their greatest financial drains but has the least concrete results to show for it.

No physical structure stands at the end of the summer but I believe the knowledge, respect, and enthusiasm we impart into our visitors for nature and history help build better citizens now and into the future and are well worth the investment.

The Friends also completely support the Kids 'n Nature School Group Program, again providing thoughtful, well-trained bodies, under the guidance of The Friends Board member Janine McClintock, to run that program. This allows us to expand our ability to provide education by bringing numerous school children into the Park in spring and fall to connect with nature.

The Friends are there in many other ways as well. They have contributed time and money into building boardwalks that allow us to get our visitors out onto trails, both with an interpreter, and on their own.

The Friends have financially supported many of our interpretive signs in the Park – all the ones you see along the Marsh Boardwalk come to mind. They help in the production of the tabloid and in displays in the Nature Centre.

Friends volunteers, ably recruited by Nancy Sutton, are crucial in keeping our Visitor Centres open in the summer as they take up shifts on Wednesdays to allow the NHE staff to gather for management meetings and professional development activities.

And it has been the Bouchers, Friends volunteers, who have kept the Lighthouse Centre (and The Friends' Gift Shop) open on weekends in spring and fall, thus allowing a whole different clientele to experience our cultural heritage displayed there, as well as access those indoor washrooms.

Finally, do you remember that word 'traditional' I used way back in the first paragraph? In the last year we have been going beyond traditional (at least for me), with a Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram feed. This has allowed us to communicate with a whole new clientele as well as keep in touch with our summer visitors. It is a service we share with The Friends, and co-editors, Janine McClintock and Anja Croes, have been crucial in keeping those services running smoothly and me on track.

Our Friends – What would we do without them?

*David Bree,
Sr. Natural Heritage Education Leader*



Brighton's 5th History Open House

February 18, 2017

Over the years, The Friends have had a lot of fun joining in on this weekend of celebration of history in and around Brighton.

This year our display showed a time line of historic pictures and documents from 1863 to the present day.



Ryan Pearce helps out at Brighton History Open House

We began by showing a painting of a military man taking a few days fishing leave on Presqu'ile in 1863 and we showed early documents of land ownership (the history of the Atkins family) and then photographs through into what our kids think of as the Middle Ages, the 1950s — with a

photo showing automobiles parked on the beach. Our display then showed modern day initiatives for The Friends in education and the environment, rounding out the display with a photo of the history-making event of 2016 — Piping Plovers were known to nest in Presqu'ile Park for the first time in 100 years.

All this was designed to attract visitors so that our volunteers would give out more information about The Friends and the Park, and it also gave them the ideal opportunity to sell Draw tickets.

What better way to add to the celebration than to have an annual Ontario Parks pass as the prize for our draw? Lots of people wanted a chance to win. Based on the tickets we sold, pretty well everyone at the History

Open House wanted that chance. We raised nearly \$500 and all proceeds will be invested in our projects in Presqu'ile Park. Hats off to all the volunteers for doing such a terrific job.

Even last year's winner, Lindi Pierce, came back to try her luck again but she was not so fortunate this time. Liz Chatten's ticket was drawn and she was present to take the prize — and what a prize! With Presqu'ile Park on the doorstep, an annual Ontario Parks pass is a very special prize.

Our congratulations to Liz on her win and we hope that she enjoys many happy hours in our most beautiful of parks.



Liz Chatten, of Brighton, is presented with her winning certificate by Nancy Sutton Photos: Barbara Ramsden

We welcome contributions to The Friends' website?

Please send us your comments and contributions to
info@friendsofpresquile.on.ca.

**Do you have any photographs that you have taken in Presqu'ile?
We hope that you will share them with us.**

Please add a suggested caption or perhaps a background story with each photo.

The Friends' Lighthouse Gift Shop is ready for another exciting season

The Friends of Presqu'ile's Lighthouse Gift Shop has been the face of the organization since the very beginning and moved into its permanent home in the Lighthouse Interpretive Centre (LIC) officially in 2001.

Every year, thousands of people visit the Lighthouse Interpretive Centre and our Gift Shop, to purchase goods, renew memberships, make donations, obtain information about the Park and the local community, and of course learn about The Friends and our many activities.

This year, after a successful visit to the Toronto Gift Show, we have a wide variety of new products ranging from educational toys to jewellery, to really interesting T-shirts and caps, along with a multitude of other items that are sure to please you and your family.

Merchandise is arriving daily and The Friends' Gift Shop will be fully stocked and ready for your visit.

OPENING HOURS

WINTER and SPRING

During Warblers and Whimbrels Weekend, and every weekend during May and June, from 10 am to 4 pm and otherwise by appointment. 613 475 1688.

SUMMER

7 days a week, from Canada Day until Labour Day weekend, from 10 am to 5 pm.

FALL

Every weekend until Thanksgiving, from 10 am to 4 pm, and during Christmas at Presqu'ile Arts and Crafts Show, from 10 am to 5 pm.

For more information please call us at **613 475 1688** or drop in for a chat.

100% of the proceeds of The Friends' Gift Shop sales remain in Presqu'ile Park to further The Friends' educational objectives.



Photo: J Alker



Photo: P Ramsden



Summer Barbeques



Photo: S Sinclair

Come, meet with friends, and enjoy our **lunchtime BBQs** every Saturday, from Canada Day weekend until Labour Day weekend. From 11:00 am until 1:30 pm

HAMBURGERS, SAUSAGES, HOT DOGS, PEAMEAL BACON, ... and much more.

You will find us in the Campground area at Presqu'ile Park, between the Amphitheatre and the parking lot, beside the lake.

All proceeds from our fund-raising BBQs will go towards The Friends' programs in the Park.

Telephone 613 475 1688

www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca

'I now have a second family'

by Ryan Pearce

Have you ever thought about volunteering... if only you knew where?

Hi, I'm Ryan Pearce, a proud volunteer at Presqu'ile Provincial Park, and I'm going to explain what it takes to be a volunteer, what a difference it can make, and what volunteering means to me.

It doesn't take much to be a volunteer, all you need is some determination. By volunteering you can make a difference in your surroundings, meet wonderful people, and especially have fun with whatever you're doing.

Volunteering is all about helping to accomplish a task, complete a job, or even assist in an event, all of this just by your own free will. If you volunteer you shouldn't get paid, the reason why you volunteer is because you want to make a difference in your life, in the community, and for future generations.

I am fairly new to Canada, as my family and I emigrated here from England two and a half years ago, and since then we have definitely adapted to the new life. We left all of our family behind in England. We still keep in contact, but since I started volunteering with The Friends of Presqu'ile I think I now have a second family.

I am a young volunteer that simply wanted to help the community, and Presqu'ile offered so many opportunities. I was always a shy young boy who was afraid to talk to people, but that definitely changed. The volunteers at Presqu'ile welcomed me and were truly kind and caring.

Now I have made many friends, by simply wanting to make a difference. I have helped out with a few events such as the Presqu'ile tent at Applefest and Christmas at Presqu'ile; there were so many moments to remember.



Ryan Pearce
Photo: Lifetouch School Portraits

Spread the word about The Friends

We encourage all of our readers to promote The Friends and Presqu'ile Park. So, please talk about the work that we do, and about the Park, with your family, your friends, and your neighbours. By all means, share this newsletter by forwarding it on.

There is plenty of information available on our website www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca.

If you want to know more, or if you can't find the answers to your questions, please send an e-mail to info@friendsofpresquile.on.ca and we'll do our best to answer you.

**Remember, all the money raised
by The Friends are reinvested in
our very special Park.**

Please check our
Calendar of Events for 2017
on the last page.

Make a note of those items that interest you.

If you would like to volunteer,
please get in touch with Nancy Sutton,
our Volunteer Coordinator,
at 613 475 9817.

For more information, e-mail us at
info@friendsofpresquile.on.ca.

*Volunteering increases levels of life satisfaction, self-esteem — and happiness.
It makes people feel good about themselves when they reach out and give back.*

Waterfowl Weekend 2017

One always hopes that the dates picked for Waterfowl Weekend correspond to the melting ice edge of Presqu'ile Bay being at Calf Pasture to maximize duck viewing.

This year that would have been February 16th! But wait! The bay froze up again in March (never seen that happen before) and the second melting of the ice brought the edge into range about March 20th. Oh so close for our March 25-26 dates.

Such uncertainty illustrates the roller coaster of hope and emotions that always precedes our big spring weekend.

So in the end the ice edge was in the wrong spot, the weather was quite grey and windy, and the weather forecast kept using the phrase 'freezing rain'.

Regardless, the show does go on, and, as always, over 40 volunteers cheerfully marshalled themselves for the 41st Waterfowl Weekend. From that standpoint it was once again a great weekend with the many volunteers coming out and enjoying interacting with our visitors.

The ducks were OK as well. While diversity was down and most ducks were scattered over the open bay there were a few that allowed very close looks at both Calf Pasture and Coot's Point. The latter is a new location for this weekend, part-way along the residential road.

Redheads, both scaup, Hooded Mergansers, American Wigeon, and Bufflehead all allowed close inspection and other species were further away but still wonderful when using the available scopes. The scope at Calf Pasture also allowed a distant view of an adult Bald Eagle that obligingly stayed perched for most of Sunday.

Really the only thing missing were people, things seemed very quiet, though even that was a bit



Volunteers and visitors enjoying the hide at Calf Pasture Photo: B Ramsden

misleading. Over 800 people came through the gates, which actually compares to some of the quieter years in the past 12, but for whatever reason not as many as normal of those people were going to the buildings or the duck stations? Just driving around, I guess.

The many wonderful volunteers all had great things to say. 'The fewer numbers allowed us to spend more quality time with each visitor' or some variation on that theme was something I heard a lot

In the end those that came seemed to enjoy their visit, volunteers had fun, The Friends covered their BBQ expenses and made some money at the gate and store, and the freezing rain never really showed up. A success once again.

Thanks to all who made it possible.

Pictures of the event can be found on our Facebook and Twitter feed (@PresquilePPO and on our **youtube** channel - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfdCTibJaCKr0y_v7w77T8A

*David Bree,
Sr. Natural Heritage Education Leader*

CORPORATE SPONSORS



Warblers and Whimbrels Weekend May 20-21, 2017

It's hard not to get excited as the days grow longer and warmer. Particularly this year after a very strange winter that had the ice off Presqu'ile Bay by the end of February and then frozen solid again in mid-March. Enough already! But the days are getting longer and spring comes with all sorts of promises, not the least of which is the prospect of returning birds.



Cape May Warbler, Presqu'ile
Photo: D Bree

The migration of billions of birds into the northern half of North America each spring is one of the greatest natural phenomena on the planet. A pleasure for all, and for bird watchers an opportunity to see a lot of birds, and a lot of different species of birds, in a very short time.

Presqu'ile is well situated for visitors to appreciate this phenomenon. Our geography, as a point sticking out into the lake, and our diversity, with many habitats, attract a great number of migrants every year.

WEATHER MIGRANTS and DAYLIGHT MIGRANTS

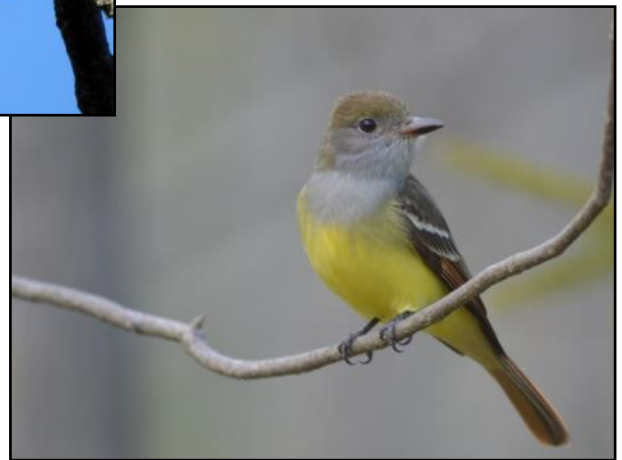
Migrants come in two types, the weather migrants and the daylight migrants. The weather migrants push the envelope, coming back as soon as conditions on the ground can support them. This type of migrant includes the waterfowl, herons, gulls and terns, and some passerines like robins, grackles, and cowbirds. These birds usually come back sometime in March and April and this year a few in February.

By contrast, the daylight migrants take their cue from changing day lengths and start back north at about the same time every year. These birds are mostly insect eaters and they can't afford to come early just because the weather seems nice and then have it turn cold when they get here. Insects stop flying in the cold and these birds will starve. Therefore they are pretty predictable in their return, arriving in numbers here in May. Daylight migrants include most of the song birds, such as warblers, and the shorebirds.

Presqu'ile's **Warblers and Whimbrels Weekend (May 20 and 21)** is situated to take advantage of this latter wave of migrants and has a number of events designed to assist people in identifying and appreciating our many migrants.

SCHEDULED BIRD WALKS

An early morning bird walk is scheduled for the Lighthouse at 7:00 am. For those that want to start a little later, we will have another walk at 10:00 am. At 2:00 pm, we will have a guided walk along the Owen Point Trail to look for shorebirds. All these events will run both days.



Great Crested Flycatcher Photo: K Anderson

BIRD-BANDING

We are also very fortunate to once again have **Elizabeth Kellogg** and **Roger Frost** present to demonstrate the art of bird banding and allow visitors to get some close looks at our feathered friends.

They will be banding in the Owen Point Parking lot between 8:00 am and noon, weather permitting (unlike birding, banding cannot be carried out in the rain as it is too hard on the birds).

and ... DON'T MISS

The Park's Lighthouse Interpretive Centre will also be open both days, from 10:00 am to 4:00pm. The Friends' Lighthouse Gift Shop will be open and The Friends will be running their fund-raising BBQ both days, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.

This is the last weekend to get raffle tickets for a fine Bushnell scope set.

See you there.

*David Bree,
Sr. Natural Heritage Education Leader*

Did you know that 98% of visitors say that a Park visit reduces stress?

Raffle Tickets will be released May 21

The Friends of Presqu'ile Park's 2017 Raffle

Win one of FOUR amazing prizes



1st Prize:
2 nights' stay in Clarke/Denson cottage
Spring or Fall 2018

2nd Prize:
Ontario Parks Annual Pass
2018/2019



3rd Prize:
1 week at Kids 'n Nature
Summer Day Camp
2018

4th Prize:
2 nights camping on a hydro site - 2018

Draw will be held at 4:00 pm on Sunday October 8, 2017



Licence Number M713393

www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca



Tickets:
\$2 each

3 for \$5

Or

10 for \$10

please mark your calendar ...



26th Annual

Christmas

at PRESQU'ILE

ARTS and CRAFTS SHOW

TEA ROOM - Desserts only

November 4, 5, 8, 11, and 12

10 am to 4 pm

Meet our Signature Artists
at The Lighthouse Gallery
(10 am to 5 pm)

FREE ENTRY TO THE PARK AND THE SHOW. FREE PARKING.

Directions: Hwy 401 to Hwy 30 (exit 509), south to Brighton. Follow Presqu'ile Provincial Park signs.

Telephone 613 475 1688

E-mail christmas@friendsofpresquile.on.ca

www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca



When you next visit Presqu'ile Park, be sure to pick up your copy of the **Presqu'ile 2017 Information Guide**, printed by **Willow Publishing, Brighton**.

We thank all of the local businesses and organizations who have sponsored this publication. Please, show your appreciation by giving them your business.

The Guide is full of many interesting articles about The Friends of Presqu'ile and the Park. It is available on our website.

Please follow this link:

www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca/presquile-park-information-guide.php



Thank you for being a Friend of Presqu'ile Park.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2017

(Calendar is subject to change — please check our website to confirm dates and information.)

May 20 and 21: Warblers and Whimbrels Weekend, starting at 7:00 am

View the elusive Whimbrels and many colourful Warblers as they migrate to their northern nesting grounds. Enjoy guided nature walks, bird-banding, and evening programs. Join The Friends for their BBQ lunch fund-raiser at the Lighthouse Interpretive Centre, on Saturday and Sunday, from 11:00 am. The Lighthouse Interpretive Centre and The Friends' Gift Shop will be open.

The Friends' Lighthouse Gift Shop will be open during Warblers and Whimbrels Weekend, from 10 am to 4 pm.

We are open otherwise by appointment.

For more information, please call **613 475 1688**.

June 3: Annual General Meeting at Stonehedge

June 10, 17, and 24: Spring walks

Guided nature walks on Saturday. Check out our website for more information and for when The Lighthouse Interpretive Centre and The Friends' Gift Shop will be open.

July 17 to 21; July 31 to August 4; August 14 to 18; August 21 to 25: Kids 'n Nature Summer Day Camps, for boys and girls

July 1 to September 3: Summer Interpretive Program

Programs will be posted on our website, www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca, and throughout the Park, every week. Daily family programs (except Wednesdays) - guided walks, children's programs, evening talks, and campfire sing-alongs. Every Saturday lunchtime, The Friends will hold a fund-raising BBQ, near the amphitheatre, from 11:00 am. The Nature Centre, Lighthouse Interpretive Centre, and The Friends' Gift Shop will be open daily.

August 5 and 6: History Weekend, 10:00 am to 10:00 pm

Relive Presqu'ile's storied past and take part in events. See War of 1812-14 re-enactments. Participate in old-fashioned field games, children's boat-building bee and regatta, ghost walks, a history play, and more.

September 2 and 3: Monarchs and Migrants Weekend, starting at 8:00 am

Bird-banding, Monarch tagging, and guided nature walks celebrate this weekend of fall migration.

September 9 to 23: Fall Interpretive Program

Friday video presentations and guided hikes on select weekends. Check our website for more information and for when The Lighthouse Interpretive Centre and The Friends' Gift Shop will be open.

November 4 and 5, 8, 11 and 12: 26th Christmas at Presqu'ile Juried Arts and Crafts Show

Fine arts and crafts on sale, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm daily, at the Christmas House (Nature Centre). Visit the Tea Room at Stonehedge and enjoy our famous rum cake and hot drinks. Our signature artists will be on hand at the Lighthouse Art Gallery, and The Friends' Gift Shop will be open, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Free entry to the Park and free admission to the Show. Free parking.

Unless otherwise noted, all events are FREE.

A valid park permit is required to enter the Park.

For more information on events, visit **The Friends of Presqu'ile Park's website** at www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca or contact **Presqu'ile Provincial Park** at **613 475 4324, ext 225**.

Views expressed in *The Beacon* are not necessarily those of The Friends of Presqu'ile Park or the Editor. Some articles are published to give a viewpoint and to encourage discussion. We welcome suggestions and constructive criticisms, and also your articles and photographs, for inclusion in the newsletter.

Mail copy to **The Friends of Presqu'ile Park** at: **PO Box 1442, Brighton ON, K0K 1H0**
or e-mail: info@friendsofpresquile.on.ca

Edited by Jenny Alker.

Thanks to all of our contributors, and to Fred Helleiner and Don Gray, for their help with *The Beacon*.