

# The Beacon

DECEMBER 2016

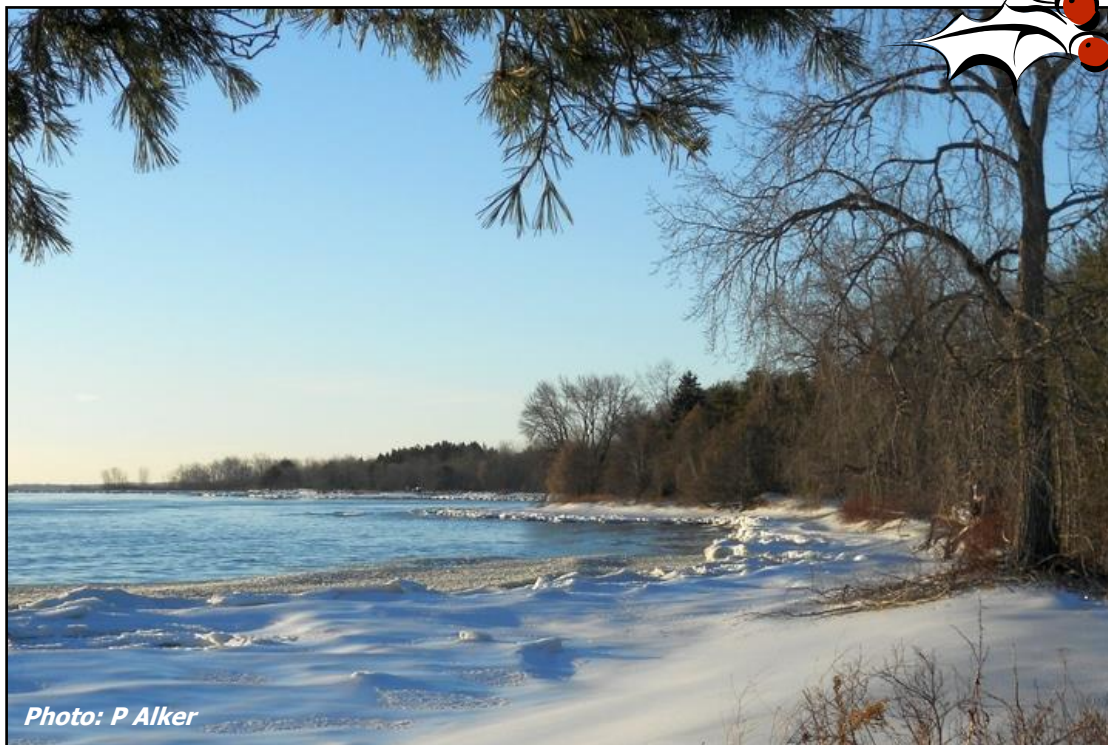


Photo: P Alker



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Steve Sinclair — *Chair*

## The Friends of Presqu'ile Park

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[www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca](http://www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca)

**Wrap up the year  
by making your  
donation to The  
Friends**

**[Donate Now](#)**

## Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2017 from our 'Presqu'ile family' to yours

As we begin to focus on 2017, recognizing the significant milestone anniversary of our well-known Christmas at Presqu'ile Arts and Crafts Show allowed me to reflect both on the value added to Presqu'ile and more broadly the benefit enjoyed by the community at large from the efforts of our Friends organization.

### Arts and Craft Show marks 25 years

The volunteer efforts over 25 years of our past and present Christmas at Presqu'ile Committee members have generated many thousands of dollars to support our work and importantly have provided an outlet for hundreds of artisans and crafts people to sell their creations, generating income for them.

Local merchants and restaurants have noted the increase in their businesses for the two weekends in November when our event is held and this contributes to the economic vibrancy of Brighton and the surrounding area. People come from far and wide to visit Christmas at Presqu'ile and it makes Brighton a destination location.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, and also personally, I wish to thank all of the Christmas at Presqu'ile volunteers and there are hundreds of them who help with the crafts, the Tea Room, and at the Lighthouse Gift Shop and Art Gallery, for their individual contributions, which add up to an impressive accomplishment.

Thank you... everyone.

### More... share the Park

2016 was an extraordinary year for fine weather. Rob Cunningham, our Park Superintendent, shared with us the significantly larger than normal visitation throughout the entire season.

This is mostly good news and just a little hard on the ecosystem. So, we will focus on the mostly good.

More visitors participated in Nature Centre visits and Natural Heritage Education interpretation activities. More feet walked the trails and learned about our incredible

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

environment. More folks peered at our Piping Plovers (as detailed in our September Beacon).

The community at large rallied around the little birds and, not to miss any opportunity, our **Bev Cook**, Board Member and recruitment leader, encouraged these bird caretakers to consider joining The Friends.

### Welcome Peter Ramsden, Communications

As those of you who follow my articles will know, we have been seeking individuals to help us with critical committee work. Through Bev's efforts and **John Cockburn**, Board Member and Trail Monitor Coordinator, we have enlisted some excellent volunteers to help with our Website as noted in our last Beacon, and on Page 3 we are pleased to introduce a new Board Member and Chair of our Communications team, **Peter Ramsden**.

Looking forward, our Board held its Annual Planning Meeting in October and received a detailed presentation from Rob about potential longer-term initiatives that would help both the Park and The Friends achieve their Mission and Vision. An outcome of this session is a more detailed assessment of

various activities and you can expect to hear more at our Annual Meeting to be held on June 3, 2017.

### Consider The Friends when making your year end donations

In closing, I would like to remind you that donations are also an important part of our overall operations and they are easy to make. Check out our website by following this link to **How to Donate to The Friends** or mail your cheque to:

### The Friends of Presqu'ile Park

Attention: **Maureen O'Connor** (Membership and Donations)  
328 Presqu'ile Parkway  
PO Box 1442  
Brighton, Ontario K0K 1H0

Happy holidays and all the best to you and yours in 2017.

Sincerely

**Steve Sinclair**  
*Chair, The Friends of Presqu'ile Park*

*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.*

## Winners of our 2016 Raffle - ENJOY THE PARK

Congratulations to the winners of our 2016 Raffle — their tickets were drawn on Sunday, October 9, 2016.



**STEVE SAMPSON,**  
Trenton  
2 nights stay in Clarke-Denson  
Cottage, spring or fall 2017



**JACK BOLTON,**  
Brighton  
Annual Ontario  
Parks' Pass 2017/18



**SCOTT ADAMS,**  
Peterborough  
Kids 'n Nature  
Summer Camp 2017



**NATHAN PLOUSUS,**  
Port Hope  
2 nights camping, hydro site in  
Presqu'ile 2017

*Thank you to everyone who has supported The Friends in our 2016 Raffle.*

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





Photo: B Ramsden

## Peter Ramsden, heads up our Communications and Public Relations Team

We are pleased to announce that **Peter Ramsden** has been appointed to the Board of Directors of The Friends of Presqu'ile Park.

He brings long experience of serving on the Board of a not-for-profit organization having served 9 years on the Board of the United Way of Quinte and, before that, for a number of years with the United Way of Milton.

His business background is in sales, marketing, and business management and so we have tasked him with co-ordinating the communications needs of The Friends. In addition to his board and marketing skills he has been known to wield a mean power screwdriver on boardwalk construction.

# A New Era Dawns at Presqu'ile

### Better late than never, some would say.

Presqu'ile has finally entered the world of social media. We got a **Facebook** page and **Twitter** account in March, 2016 and an **Instagram** account in July. These accounts are official Park accounts, but we share them with The Friends.

In fact, both Facebook and Twitter rely heavily on The Friends co-editors for content. Friends' Board member **Janine McClintock** knows her way around a Facebook page and has helped immensely with our page since the beginning. **Anja Croes** has recently signed on to help with Twitter and made an immediate impact, easily increasing our engagement rating 10-fold!

Our Instagram account is managed by seasonal staffer **Kristen Osborne**. She did a great job all summer, posting a picture a day and continues to send out pictures periodically through her off-season.

There is no doubt that social media is the communication medium of our age and getting Presqu'ile out there helps by raising our profile, communicating management messages (eg fire ban this summer), advertising our programs, and just letting people know about some of the neat stories happening in the Park year-round.

Weekly updates on our nesting Piping Plovers were very popular last summer.

The drawback to running these accounts is that they do need constant content to keep them relevant. Our Friends' co-editors obviously help a lot but if you see something of interest in the Park, or take a photo you want to share, please feel free to pass it along to me and we can share it online.

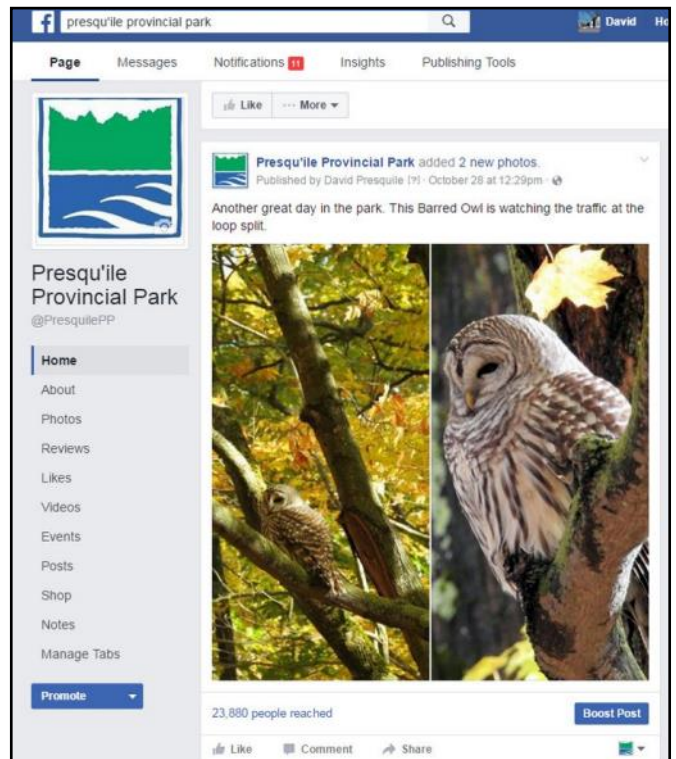
And, of course, please join the conversation on our social media sites.

**Facebook can be found at [www.facebook.com/PresquilePP](http://www.facebook.com/PresquilePP)**

**Twitter is at <https://twitter.com/PresquilePP>**

**Instagram is at [www.instagram.com/presquilepp](http://www.instagram.com/presquilepp)**

*David Bree, [david.bree@ontario.ca](mailto:david.bree@ontario.ca)*



Thank you ... to each and every one of the dedicated volunteers who helped with our 25th Christmas at Presqu'ile Arts and Crafts Show. Over 250 helpers were involved - and, we all had a lot of fun.



Photo: Ted Amsden

The proceeds will go towards The Friends' education programs in the Park. This includes the interpreter salaries and costs for the successful Kids 'n Nature School Group Program, and Kids 'n Nature Summer Day Camps. And, The Friends also help financially with the Park's Natural Heritage Education programs.

Last year, The Friends spent over \$87,000 in Presqu'ile Park, and Christmas at Presqu'ile is one of our major fund-raising activities.

The success of this show will help The Friends to deliver Kids 'n Nature programs and camps in 2017.

*Christmas at Presqu'ile Committee*

## Winners of Christmas at Presqu'ile raffle and draw

Four tickets were drawn at the end of our Christmas at Presqu'ile Arts and Crafts Show, and the winners have been notified by telephone. Congratulations to the following:

**Patricia Leblanc**, Brighton – **Wolf Intarsia**. **Larry Granger**  
**Tim Tufts**, Orono – **Bird Basket**, **Out on a Limb**  
**David Aspinwall**, Trenton – **3 Piece Pottery Set**, **Alicia Bye**  
**Geri Logan**, Belleville – **Hooked Pillow**, **Anne Onishchuk**

and... The Lucky Draw winner: **Hannah McCleary**, Brighton – **Christmas Basket**

We thank the artists who donated their work and everyone who supported our raffle. All proceeds from the show and the raffle will go towards The Friends' educational programs and environmental projects in Presqu'ile Park.

### CORPORATE SPONSORS



*Fred Helleiner's Birding Reports are posted every week on our website.*



# Kids 'n Nature

Looking back on all of our programs and camps in 2016



Photo: Caroline Birch

## Fall School Outreach Program

After a fast-paced summer, full of sun and seemingly endless adventure, the arrival of fall brings a different picture to mind – one filled with school bells ringing. For students and teachers alike, the beginning of the school year is a flurry of meeting new friends and settling into a routine.

This year the **Kids 'n Nature** program saw teachers that were eager to take advantage of the lingering summer-like weather by booking an interpreter to guide their classes along the Marsh Boardwalk Trail. Rubber-boot-clad students explored the world beneath the murky marsh waters using nets and magnifying glasses at the teaching platform built by The Friends in 2010.

As the weather began to cool and leaves dropped from the trees, classes visiting Presqu'ile found themselves immersed in the sights and sounds of a forest preparing for winter.

For those classes unable to make a trip to the Park, an interpreter in the classroom visit was the perfect way to bring a part of Presqu'ile to them. Each hour-long session served as an introduction to the great biodiversity to be discovered at the Park and sparked curious minds as well as many questions.

Both in-class and in-Park programs were popular this season with 550 students participating from 14 classrooms in the region - making for one very busy interpreter.

Educators were delighted with the free programming and we already have a list of teachers interested in booking for spring 2017.

## Kids 'n Nature Summer Day Camps

Thanks to a generous donation from the **Brighton Health Services Centre**, The Friends of Presqu'ile were able to hire a third camp leader and make more spots available for our ever-popular Summer Day Camp program for 2016.

100 eager campers explored the Park's unique cultural and natural history via a number of engaging outdoor activities.

By hiking through hundred-year-old forest, using their imaginations to create eco-friendly crafts, and taking a look through time in the Lighthouse Interpretive Centre, our campers bonded with each other as well as the wild spaces they explored.

*(Continued on page 6)*

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



Photo: Caroline Birch

(Continued from page 5)

We are grateful for the opportunity to provide quality outdoor programming to promote healthy children in our community with the help of the Brighton Health Services Centre.

*'I am grateful that my daughter had this experience. This camp provided an opportunity for creativity, activity, learning, friendship, and fun! It was very well organized; leaders were qualified, enthusiastic, and positive role models.'*

### School Group Program

Earlier this year, the spring session was the busiest in the history of Kids 'n Nature. In 7 short weeks our interpreters, **Krista Neilly** and **Caroline Birch**, delivered educational programming to 1895 local elementary school students.

In total, the Kids 'n Nature school group program (including the camps) has reached 2425 young minds this year.

The positive feedback from educators has been wonderful and the level of excitement and enthusiasm displayed by the students while learning about the natural world incredibly rewarding – both a testament to the success of our 2016 season.

We invite teachers, home educators, and scouts and guides to experience the Kids 'n Nature program for yourself!

It is easy to book an in-class or in-Park visit by contacting us at [kidsn.nature@friendsofpresquile.on.ca](mailto:kidsn.nature@friendsofpresquile.on.ca) or by calling 613 475 1688, ext 3. For more information about The Friends of Presqu'ile, be sure to visit [www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca](http://www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca)

*'Thank you for a wonderful day, Krista. We all had a great time. You and Caroline did an excellent job with the students. We will definitely try again next year.'*

*'Thank you, Krista, for such an enriched day of learning and fun activities geared perfectly for young students! We had a terrific day and look forward to returning next year! Thank you also to your assistant as she also provided an effective and engaging program.'*

*'We LOVED our trip to Presqu'ile and can't wait to send you our thanks. The certificate is very awesome and the kids will love it. We learned a lot - many kids said that was their best trip all year - and we have done our fair share of trips.'*

*Janine McClintock*

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 become more involved and volunteer, please get in touch with Nancy Sutton, our Volunteer Coordinator, at 613 475 9817.

For more information e-mail [info@friendsofpresquile.on.ca](mailto:info@friendsofpresquile.on.ca).

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



# Where does the Money go?

We are always talking about money. The Friends ask you for money for your membership. If you aren't a member, we ask you to join us. And, we also ask you if you would like to make a donation.

We run fund-raising events like Christmas at Presqu'ile, and the Lighthouse Gift Shop to raise money.

As well, we solicit grants and all this amounts to a sizeable sum every year.



the boardwalk system through the Park. It is completely volunteer driven.

So you ask, why do you need money for the program?

Well, our volunteers, talented as they are, need materials. We've not mastered the loaves and fishes trick yet.

All the new sections of boardwalk which you'll see in the Park were built by donations with volunteer labour.

Why?

Because all this effort allows us to do things that otherwise just wouldn't happen in Presqu'ile.

### Delivery of educational and conservation projects

Look no further than the article about Kids 'n Nature in this issue to see the reach of educational programs that wouldn't happen without The Friends.

Look at the article about the Common Tern and the work that is being done within Presqu'ile Park because The Friends of Presqu'ile use your donations to fund this type of research.

The money you help us raise helps hire qualified people to do research and to run programs where we need more qualified resources than our volunteer group can provide. This is important work and the monies The Friends of Presqu'ile raise make it happen.

### Building Boardwalks

Following on from our successful boardwalk projects, namely The Marsh Boardwalk and Jobes' Woods Trail, volunteers of The Friends continue to work at maintaining and extending

So, if you are not already a member, please join The Friends of Presqu'ile Park. Your support helps and membership is only \$20 per family per year.

Think about a donation if you can. We issue tax receipts for amounts over \$10 so a donation now recoups you a tax benefit quite quickly.

It's not just about money though. Volunteering is a good way to help and it is hugely rewarding. Whether it be building boardwalks (footbridges as the Park staff call them) or helping with summer barbecues, staffing the Gift Shop, not to mention volunteering with Christmas at Presqu'ile, there are lots of opportunities.

In 2015, The Friends of Presqu'ile spent \$87,000 in the Park and contributed 14,000 volunteer hours.

With more money and more volunteers we can go beyond this and do even more than we do today.

*Peter Ramsden,  
Communications and Public Relations*

## Are you considering making a donation to The Friends?

Some useful information from **David Crouch, Treasurer, The Friends of Presqu'ile Park**

If you are considering making a donation, please take note of the following:

- The Friends of Presqu'ile Park is a registered charity and will issue receipts for all donations over \$10 or on request.
- A donation can only be claimed if a taxpayer has taxable income. However it may be carried forward for up to 5 yrs.
- In Ontario, a donation might result in tax savings from

20.05% of the amount of the donation up to 40.16% if the total donations exceed \$200.

- There are provisions for taxpayers with large incomes (over \$200,000) to receive additional credits for charitable donations.
- There is a special provision for a taxpayer making a charitable donation for the very first time.

If you are considering a large charitable donation to The Friends, or any other charity, you should consult with your tax/financial advisors first.

**Remember, for a charitable donation to be claimed on a tax return for 2016, it must be received by the charity before December 31, 2016.**

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

## BUILDING BRIDGES

### to a safer and drier trail system

The Friends continue to upgrade and add *footbridges* (boardwalks), to extend the hiking season. They also help to remove invasive vegetation. Work on Pioneer Trail is now complete, although, if time and energy permit, some woodchips may be added in damp places. But really, Pioneer is now 'good to go'. Take a hike and check it out.

The Newcastle Trail is generally wetter but, with two exceptions, the worst has been remedied with new or replacement *footbridges*. Three areas on the north section still need attention and the long boardwalk near the lighthouse needs repair very soon.

Ten volunteers in total helped with this activity. Several Park staff joined us, especially with the operation of heavy equipment.

Work days often saw a crew of 4 or 5 on the job, and most days about 50 feet were completed. I can't say enough good things about these eager and talented volunteers.

We can always add to our list of helpers, as travel plans, etc can leave the crew a bit thin some days. Over the last two summers, we have built in excess of 1,000 feet of new and replacement *footbridge*, but there is still more to do.

So, if you would like to flex a few muscles and work alongside and get to know a great group of volunteers, just give me a call. We will get back to work in the spring.

*John Cockburn 705 295 6967*

## The Builders... my introduction to the future

Doing something for the first time with people you've never met before can be a bit intimidating, and so it was, with my nerves jangling a little, that I set off one August morning to Presqu'ile Park.

Boardwalk building was in my future!

Of course, in my desire not to be late I got there early and there was no one around. Am I in the right place? Within a few minutes, the rest of the team arrived and we introduced ourselves.

The first job was to prepare the planks we would be using and load the trailer to take things out to the job site. We soon settled into a nice rhythm of carrying wood into the maintenance shed, chop sawing to correct length, and then stacking into the trailer.

Good start... I can do wood carrying.

Then off to the section of boardwalk we were going to extend. Again we quickly established who wanted to do what and we rotated things during the day so that no one got bored doing one thing all the time.

John Cockburn, our fearless leader, was very open to suggestions for how things should be handled and it quickly became a fun, co-operative effort with suggestions made,

tested by the group, and used or in some cases modified. Occasionally we all agreed that something wasn't going to work but the whole process was hugely positive.

By this time I'm having a really good time and so is everyone else.

Building even a simple boardwalk through trees over undulating terrain poses plenty of challenges but we solved them all. John's experience helped hugely, of course, but, if you'll pardon the pun, the team built on that.

By the end of the first day, we had mated the new boardwalk to the existing one, built about 50 feet of trail, and laid the foundation for an additional 20 feet.

Our goal for the project was about 110 feet so we were well on the way. There was a major challenge still to come though, as the trail bent sharply around a couple of trees.

Our second day proceeded as the first and we completed the section. It was hugely satisfying to step back, look at what we had built, and know that, for years to come, visitors to the Park would use it never knowing the fun that we had in building it.

*Peter Ramsden*

## Trail Monitors on patrol

Perhaps you have run into a trail monitor, often a couple, as they check out *their trail*. If you know one of our monitors, then ask them to explain their role in keeping the Park clean for our visitors.

Twice monthly, they hike *their trail*, picking up garbage, removing debris, and reporting issues to Park staff. They enjoy their walks and the interaction they have with visitors

to the Park. Several monitors also volunteer in other ways so The Friends of Presqu'ile Park can grow its contributions to the Park. Busy people get things done!

We had a full roster of monitors in 2016, but after three years, experience has indicated that life does get in the way for some, so a small turnover is likely to occur in 2017. Our monitors often work as couples but we do have many individuals on our roster.

If this activity appeals to you, please give me a call. We will get going in early May.

*John Cockburn 705 295 6967*

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



# Presqu'ile Piping Plover Mom Spotted in Florida

The female plover from the pair that nested on Presqu'ile's beach and raised three chicks this summer was photographed in Florida on November 3, 2016.

As you might recall, this summer's nesting was the first documented here in 100 years. Piping Plovers are an endangered species and their nesting here caused lots of excitement.

The Park put up some exclusion fencing and made a request to the community for volunteers to help monitor the family and inform beachgoers of what was happening on our beach and how we could all work to keep the birds safe.

We had a great response and many Friends' members came out to help. Three chicks successfully fledged and flew away on August 16.

As is normal, the parents had left earlier; the female on July 11 and the male on July 28. Normally, in these situations, that is it. We don't know where our family has gone or how they are doing, and we wait anxiously hoping we will see them again next year.

But thanks to three dedicated volunteers, half a continent apart and with today's technology, we have been able to make a connection with one of our family well before spring.

**Karina Spence** and **Anja Croes** were two of our Plover Volunteers this summer, and since the babies left they have been scouring the internet webpages looking for Piping Plover pictures for birds with our colour combination leg bands.

**Danny Sauvageau** is a bird and photography enthusiast in Florida who specializes in photographing banded birds. On November 5, he posted some pictures on his Facebook page '**Florida Banded Bird Resightings**' from his trip to Three Rooker Bar, and Anja and Karina spotted our lady.

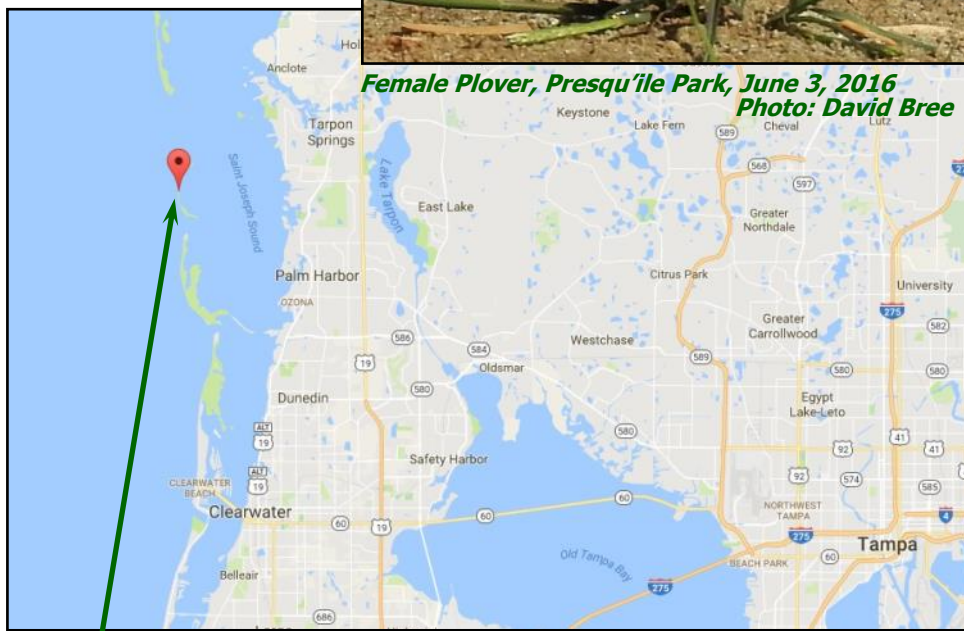
Three Rooker Bar is a sand bar island off the Gulf coast of Florida, very near Tampa Bay, 1845 kms from Presqu'ile.

Apparently Danny saw her last year as well in that area. This is great news and has made many Plover watchers here at home happy. Maybe we will hear more about our birds this winter thanks to our volunteers across two nations.

*David Bree,  
Natural Heritage Education Leader*



*Female Plover, Presqu'ile Park, June 3, 2016  
Photo: David Bree*



**Three Rooker Island**, (also known as **Three Rooker Bar**) is an island in Pinellas County, Florida.

Compared to neighboring barrier islands, Three Rooker Island is newly formed and emerged in the 1980s as water currents built up the sand bar above sea level. By the 1990s it was large enough for vegetation to establish itself on the newly formed island, further stabilizing it and making it more resistant to washing away.

Three Rooker Island is part of the **Anclote Key Preserve State Park** and is partially protected for nesting seabirds while also allowing it to be a popular place for local boaters.

*From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*



# A GOOD TERN

For the last nine summers, **Drs. Steve Oswald** and **Jennifer Arnold**, from **Penn State University**, and their family have been coming to Presqu'ile. While the kids might be on vacation, the couple are here to work.

They have been studying the Common Tern colony on Gull Island. This colony is unique in the lower Great Lakes being the only long-used colony on a natural, rather than a man-made (breakwaters etc.), structure.

Their research, which has been supported in part by grants from The Friends, has been instrumental in the protection of this declining species.

Their early work showed that almost no baby terns were surviving. Cameras placed in the colony found that Black-crowned Night-Herons and, to a lesser extent, Herring Gulls were eating all the babies.



*Dr Oswald working in tern colony. The stick on his hat keeps the terns from hitting his head.*



*Part of the tern colony protection grid*



*Baby terns waiting to be banded Photos: A Parker*

In 2013 an experimental grid system of wire was placed over the colony. This was found to be effective at keeping the larger predators out and most chicks survived to fly away.

The grid was adopted as part of the Park management of this species in 2015 and its use was expanded. This expansion had the added benefit of increasing the number of terns nesting here.

158 nests were present in 2015, an 80% increase from years prior to the grid being used. Not all nests were within the grid, however, and there was a marked difference in how many chicks survived inside compared to outside the grid.

Last summer saw an expansion of the grid, though tern protection took a step back when remote cameras saw a Great Horned Owl within the grid eating chicks.

How did such a large bird get inside and how was it able to leave? No answer to those questions has been forthcoming yet but modification made to the grid may have helped as the owl seemed to leave and, with the larger colony, chick productivity was still good.

There is no doubt that work by Drs. Oswald and Arnold has greatly increased the long-term survival of Common Terns at Presqu'ile and also helped this declining species keep its Ontario populations up, thus doing a good turn for us all.

*David Bree, Natural Heritage Education Leader*

*This project receives support from The Friends' Environmental Fund.*





# Wildlife fencing is now complete



*Team install wildlife fencing near Park Store*

*Photos: D Tyerman*



*Wildlife tunnel positioned in the fencing encourages wildlife to use safe crossings*



*Back-filling fence with gravel*



*Camera positioned at crossing monitors wildlife*

You may have noticed a low black plastic fence along the road between the Park Store and the campground.

This fence has been erected to reduce road mortality of the Park's frogs, turtles and snakes. It has been placed in a **hot-spot** or an area where large numbers of the animals are killed by vehicles. This hotspot was determined through survey work conducted by Laurentian University researchers who confirmed that this area was indeed a major **death-zone**.

In the autumn of 2014, two tunnels were built under the roadway to allow animals, desiring passage to the other side of the road, a safe route. Of course frogs, turtles, and snakes have no knowledge of these **crosswalks** and thus need to be directed towards the wildlife tunnels. The fence installed in the summer of 2016 is a specially designed wildlife fence that funnels the animals to the safe crossing areas.

*(Continued on page 12)*



(Continued from page 11)

Our Laurentian University partners are anxious to see how effective the Park's mitigation measures will prove to be and plan, in the summer of 2017, to conduct **post-mitigation** surveys in the same locations where previous survey work has been completed.

This **before-and-after** study will be one of the first of its kind in North America and will provide valuable lessons that will be useful everywhere roads are a hazard to frogs, turtles, and snakes.

Although the scientific survey work has not yet been completed, we are already seeing small animals of all kinds using the tunnels and staying off the roadways.

Indeed, trail cameras and special wildlife **counters** have logged passages by all manner of wildlife including the most vulnerable and slowest users – our turtles.

This project has been supported by The Friends of Presqu'ile in many ways – financially and through volunteer efforts.

For example, this October a group of Friends' volunteers helped build **escape-ramps** to help determined critters (mostly frogs) which find their way past the fence and onto the road.

Ontario Parks staff are very appreciative of the many ways The Friends of Presqu'ile have helped out with this project.

Now that the wildlife fence-tunnel system is completed we all hope to prevent thousands of vehicle/animal collisions in the future.

*Don Tyerman,  
Biodiversity Specialist*



*The 25th Anniversary Environmental Fund helps us support Species at Risk projects, Invasive Species projects, and Scientific Research.*



Photo: Steve Sinclair

## SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THE WORK WE DO IN PRESQU'ILE

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

There is plenty of information available on our website [www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca](http://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](mailto:info@friendsofpresquile.on.ca) and we'll do our best to answer you.

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

*Become a friend of The Friends*





# Kids 'n Nature Summer Camps 2017



**Four, five-day (Monday to Friday) camps for 8- to 11-year olds, each with a different new theme.**

**We are accepting a limited number of 12- to 14-year-olds for each camp week. While they will be alongside the younger age group, older campers will participate in more challenging activities and leadership opportunities.**

## Each Kids 'n Nature Summer Day Camp features

- Nature-based games
- Learning activities
- Crafts
- Hiking
- 3 beach afternoons
- Special activities based on a new theme



### 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 4: 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 about, 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.

**Location** Presqu'ile Provincial Park, 328 Presqu'ile Parkway, Brighton, ON, K0K 1H0

**Cost \$130 per child per camp** (includes: pick-up at King Edward Park in Brighton in the morning, and drop-off at King Edward Park in the afternoon, as well as craft and camp supplies).

***Please register early as there is a limited number of spaces per camp.***

For more information and registration forms (**available on-line from March 31, 2017**), please contact The Friends of Presqu'ile. Call **613 475 1688, ext 3**, e-mail [kidsn.nature@friendsofpresquile.on.ca](mailto:kidsn.nature@friendsofpresquile.on.ca) or visit [www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca](http://www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca)

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2017

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

## **February (to be confirmed): NatureWorks Winter Soup Hike, from 1:00 pm**

See how much life there is in the dead of winter on this 90-minute guided walk, followed by a hot bowl of soup and a slide show. \$5 person/\$8 family. Registrations required - to make your booking please telephone 613 475 1688, ext 2.

## **March 25 and 26: Waterfowl Weekend, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm**

World-class waterfowl viewing during the spring migration. Volunteer naturalists will help you view and identify over 25 different species of ducks, geese, and swans. Also check out displays and children's activities in the Nature Centre. Join The Friends for BBQ lunch fundraiser at the Lighthouse, on Saturday and Sunday, from 11:00 am. The Lighthouse Interpretive Centre and The Friends' Gift Shop will be open.

## **May 20 and 21: Warblers and Whimbrels Weekend, starting at 6:30 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 BBQ lunch fund-raiser at the Lighthouse, on Saturday and Sunday, from 11:00 am. The Lighthouse Interpretive Centre and The Friends' Gift Shop will be open.

## **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](http://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 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.

The Friends' Gift Shop will be open for Waterfowl Weekend and Warblers and Whimbrels Weekend.

We are open otherwise by appointment.

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

**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](http://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.

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Edited by Jenny Alker.

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