

Volunteerism is alive and well at The Friends of Presqu'ile



and we value and appreciate the efforts of those who participate in so many different ways. I do hope you will be able to join us at the upcoming **Friends' Volunteer Appreciation Day** event.

In addition to providing our genuine thanks to all who help make The Friends successful, I will be reviewing the breadth of activities that are accomplished by our organization and expanding on the wonderful contributions we make to the Park both in Education and Environmental Initiatives.

This update has a two-fold purpose. First, to share with the volunteers just how important their contributions are and the value provided from their efforts; and second, we need our volunteers to be well informed ambassadors, with up-to-date information about The Friends and what we accomplish.

As ambassadors for The Friends, you can encourage friends, neighbours, and visitors in the Park, that you may speak with, to consider joining our organization. We have launched a Membership drive and it is my sincere hope that each of you will join in this effort to help us find new members.

Additionally, there are areas where we require more

help. Your talents, time, and skills might just meet these needs.

- At the moment we are looking for folks that could help us with our **Gift Shop** operations and a committee has been established to direct the restructuring needed for 2016.
- Our Board of Directors has three positions that we would like to fill with energetic individuals who are willing to participate in committee work in the areas of **finance, grant preparation, and seasonal staff oversight.**

Please consider these opportunities to help The Friends and also to promote our good work as we seek to grow our membership base.

I hope to see you on **Saturday, September 19**, at the **Volunteer Appreciation Day.**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Steve'.

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

Come and meet with our Kids 'n Nature staff

at The Friends' Volunteer Appreciation Day,
at the Picnic Shelter, on Saturday, September 19.

Brad Robins, our **Kids 'n Nature** Interpreter for this year, and **Krista Neilly**, our **Kids 'n Nature** School Group Assistant, will be on hand to chat about their year so far.





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Board of Directors

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The Friends of Presqu'ile Park

PO Box 1442, Brighton ON, K0K 1H0 • Telephone: 613 475 1688
E-mail: info@friendsofpresquile.on.ca • Website: www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca

Help out and have fun as a friend of The Friends

We have many opportunities for our volunteers throughout the year and we appreciate all the work that they put in to make our association so successful.

There are two remaining volunteer activities for 2015. Whether you are able to give a little or a lot of your time, you will have fun supporting The Friends' work. Please call **Nancy Sutton, our Volunteer Coordinator**, at **613 475 9817** any time. She will get back to you if she misses your call.

September 26 — Brighton's Applefest

We will have our usual stand on Main Street, on Saturday, September 26, and we need volunteers who

enjoy meeting and talking with visitors. This is a very popular event and gives us a chance to promote ourselves outside of the Park. Attendance at this festival weekend is over 30,000.

November 7, 8, 11, 14, and 15 — Christmas at Presqu'ile Arts and Crafts Show

We need many volunteers to help us create the Christmas House, the Tea Room, and the Art Gallery.

For the event itself, we need volunteers as parking attendants, greeters, cashiers, wrappers, sales personnel, servers and greeters in the Tea Room, help at The Lighthouse, and general helpers.

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



To book a **Kids 'n Nature School Group Program**, and/or to arrange for our **Kids 'n Nature Interpreter** to visit your school, click on the 'Sign Up Now' button on our webpage: <http://friendsofpresquile.on.ca/free-school-group-program.php>

For inquiries, please contact us via e-mail: kidsn.nature@hotmail.com

By telephone, you can reach our **Kids 'n Nature Interpreter** at **613 475 1688, ext 3** (May -October) or the **Natural Heritage Education Leader** at **613 475 4324, ext 225** (Nov - April).

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.



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

SUMMER CAMP

As I write this, our last week of Summer Camp has just wrapped up and our camp leaders **Brad Robins** and **Michelle Lunitz** are ready for a well-deserved break after a busy summer.

Brad will continue on in September and October to deliver our fall School Group Program. Congratulations to Michelle who will be moving on to a teaching job in the Durham area this year.

Big thanks to our enthusiastic lifeguards **Jared** and **Danielle** and our very committed volunteer **Julia** for a job well done. And thanks to our spring (and fall) Assistant **Krista Neilly** and last year's Assistant **Jennifer Hilton** for some extra help.

All four of our camp weeks were fully subscribed. New this year were specific themes for each camp week. A highlight was the bird-banding demonstration by Elizabeth Kellogg and Roger Frost for our Monarchs and Migrants week.

SCHOOL GROUP PROGRAM

Earlier in the year, our interpreters Brad and Krista had a very successful and busy spring delivering the **Kids 'n Nature** School Group Program to local elementary school children.

There was much positive feedback from the teachers, who were very thankful for the free programming. In total, we delivered in-school programs to 225 children in

11 classes and in-park programs to 803 children in 40 classes.

So far this year, over 1100 children have enjoyed learning about the rich biodiversity of Presqu'ile Provincial Park through the **Kids 'n Nature** program.

It is very rewarding to see the excitement and curiosity displayed by the students and campers and the satisfaction of teachers and parents with the program.

We are very thankful for all the financial support we have received from The Friends and the Brighton Health Services Centre.

We invite teachers, homeschool groups, and Scouts and Guides leaders to book an in-class or in-park visit this September or October to experience the **Kids 'n Nature** School Group Programs first hand.

Telephone us at **613 475 1688** or contact us by e-mail at **kidsn.nature@hotmail.com**.



*Janine McClintock,
Education and Interpretation*



The Friends of Presqu'ile Park's 2015 RAFFLE



GET CLOSE TO NATURE



WIN one of four fabulous prizes

1st Prize: 5 nights' camping in Presqu'ile Park - 2016

2nd Prize: Annual Ontario Parks' Pass - 2016/17

3rd Prize: 1 week at Kids 'n Nature Summer Day Camp - 2016

4th Prize: Summer Season Ontario Parks' Pass - 2016

Tickets: **\$2** each, **3/\$5**, or **10/\$10**

available from members of The Friends, our Saturday Summer BBQs,
and at The Lighthouse Interpretive Centre.

The draw will be held at The Lighthouse Interpretive Centre,
at 4:00 pm on Sunday, October 11, 2015.

All funds raised are used in support of The Friends' programs in Presqu'ile Provincial Park.

For tickets and more information call 613 475 1688 or visit www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca

Licence No: M 713322

*Show your support of The Friends' programs
by purchasing Raffle tickets!*

Good luck!

Snapshot Round-up



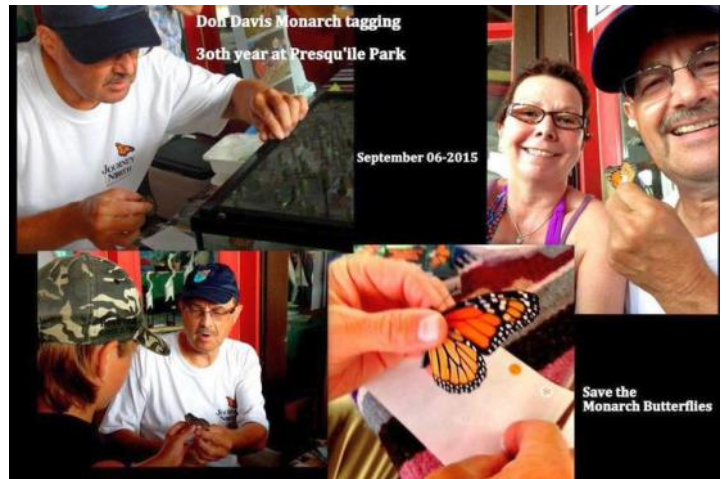
The Friends' last BBQ for the 2015 season was a big success, and a great way to end a successful year. Although prices for all our supplies had gone up, we were able to keep our prices the same as last year, and we raised over \$6000. All proceeds from our BBQs go towards The Friends' programs in the Park.

The BBQ team thank all the volunteers who came out to help. A big thanks goes out to all the campers and visitors who came into the Park to support our fund-raiser. We all had lots of fun and hope to see you again next year.



It's all about Monarchs Photo: Audrey Kouyoumdjian

30th Monarchs and Migrants Weekend Saturday and Sunday, September 5 and 6



Don Davis, Audrey Kouyoumdjian, and Carol Pasternak

Don Davis had his display set up outside the Lighthouse Interpretive Centre (LIC) during the Monarchs and Migrants Weekend. Visitors, from young schoolchildren to retirees, were fascinated to learn about the Monarch's life cycle: egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, and butterfly. The butterflies were tagged before they were released to begin their remarkable two-month mass migration to Mexico. Learn more about the Monarch at www.monarchwatch.org.

Don was joined by Carol Pasternak, author of the Children's Book 'How to Raise Monarch Butterflies'.

Snapshot Round-up

REPAIR OF THE NEWCASTLE TRAIL BOARDWALKS

Two sections of the Newcastle Trail have been repaired by a volunteer construction team: **John Cockburn, Gary Cooper, Dave Cutler, Nolan Deluca, Mike Gething, Terry Langford, Matt Robins, Jack Scott, and Rachel Windsor**. The first section was the foot bridge across from the Nature Centre. They then repaired the boardwalk in from the Paxton Drive entrance, by the Lighthouse Interpretive Centre parking lot.



2015 project for our trail volunteers



Newcastle Trail, across from the Nature Centre



Newcastle Trail, in from Paxton Drive, by the LIC



Some of the team: John Cockburn, David Cutler, and Jack Scott

Natural Heritage Education – Summer 2015

The NHE staff had a very successful summer in 2015. With the support of The Friends and some extra MNRF money, we had a larger staff than we have had in some years. Due to the current economic cycle they were also a very experienced and mature group. This allowed us to present three, and sometimes four, programs per day.

Many of our programs this year were the more informal 'drop-in' programs, including Marsh Cart, Critter Cart, and a number of prop talks.

Today's audiences seem more reluctant to attend formal programs with set start times and we are adapting to be as effective as possible in providing education to our visitors.

Both visitor centres proved as popular as ever and The Friends continued providing support for Coordinators in our Nature Centre and Lighthouse Interpretive Centre (LIC). Their support is appreciated, specifically, in the LIC, where the

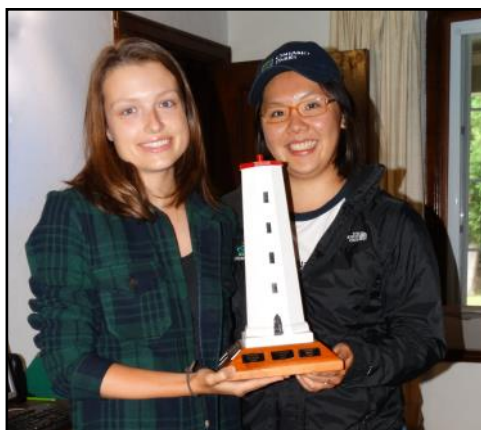
push button lights on the big satellite map were repaired.

While all staff did an outstanding job, at our end of season wrap-up on August 26, a few individuals were honoured for their exemplary work this summer.

Vivienne Wu (who was on a Friends' contract in 2014) received the Lighthouse Award, and **Sarah Bradley** (on a Friends' summer contract) received the Nature Centre Award. **Krista Neilly** (on a Friends' summer contract and The Friends' Kids 'n Nature School Group Assistant this spring and fall) for the second year in a row, received the Wise Owl Award for highest total score on the weekly training quizzes.

Congratulations to all.

*David Bree,
Natural Heritage Education Leader*



*Vivienne Wu receives the Lighthouse Interpretive Centre Award from LIC Coordinator, Michelle Thompson
Photo: Kristen Osborne*



*Sarah Bradley gets the Nature Centre Award from NC Coordinator, Kristen Osborne
Photo: Krista Neilly*



*Krista Neilly is presented with the Wise Owl Award by Children's Programmer, Laura McClintock
Photo: Kristen Osborne*

ASHES TO DUST ...

I think most people have heard of the **Emerald Ash Borer**, and know that it is killing ash trees, but I am not sure if people realize the extent of the devastation that is coming to Presqu'ile, and soon.

To start at the beginning, Emerald Ash Borer is a beetle that was introduced to the Windsor-Detroit area around 2002, probably from China, and probably in wooden packing crates. It is a small green beetle, about 1.5 cm long and looks harmless.

The trouble is that the larva of this beetle eats the inside bark of ash trees. There are so many of them and they eat so much, that they end up eating right around the tree, which kills it by cutting all the tree's tubes that transport water and nutrients up and down the tree. Ash mortality where they show up is 100% across all five ash tree species found in Ontario.

The Emerald Ash Borer arrived in the Brighton area probably about 4-5 years ago, no doubt transported here to a location along Telephone Road in firewood that had been moved from an affected area.

It is only a matter of time before it is in the Park, if it is not already. In ten years, it is likely that every ash tree in the Park will be dead. Ash makes up about 30% to 40% of all trees in the Park. There are going to be a lot of standing dead trees in the Park and many places will look like a wasteland.

Unfortunately, there is little that can be done to stop the beetle. There is a pesticide that can be injected into the base of the tree that seems to protect the ash for 1 to 2 years from the beetle, so it has to be re-applied over the life of the tree. Costs average \$200-\$300 a tree.



Emerald Ash Borer

Photo: US Government open source

This seems a good solution for individual land owners that want to protect one or two trees on their properties but trying to protect a forest is not economically feasible.

However, the Park and The Friends have decided that we have to do something, and ten ash trees of three species were inoculated along the Jobs' Woods Trail in July 2015.

In the best case scenario we may be able to keep the trees alive until all the other ash are dead. The beetle will then die out and the saved trees can then re-populate the Park.

Unfortunately, the life-cycle of both the beetle and trees makes this an unlikely scenario. In the worst case, we will be able to keep a part of our natural heritage alive along the Jobs' Woods Trail as a living museum for a few decades at least.

If you are interested in helping with this project, contact The Friends for more information at info@friendsofpresquile.on.ca

*David Bree,
Natural Heritage Education
Leader*

25th Anniversary
Environmental Fund

Being created to provide a dependable, long-term source of funds to preserve and restore the environmental ecology at Presqu'ile Park.

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



A White Ash — DBH (diameter at breast height) is measured to determine how many canisters of pesticide need to be administered



Drilling holes to inoculate a White Ash Tree



The Black Ash Swamp along Jobes' Woods Trail had four trees treated to protect them against Emerald Ash Borer



Pesticide canister being tapped into place

Photos: D Bree



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A hot end and a cool beginning

Summer update from the Road to Conservation crew

Another summer has come to a close at Presqu'ile for the **Road to Conservation** crew. Summer 2015 has been an exciting one, which has seen many old faces, as well as a bunch of new ones (that includes volunteers, staff, **and** turtles).

The season began with a cold and dry spring, with the Park receiving virtually no rain through all of May. In early June we finally got some well-needed precipitation and then they came.

Turtles in droves came out of Presqu'ile wetlands to lay their eggs, and in typical style; dozens of nests were laid in only a few short days. Most of these nests were found by natural predators, such as raccoons, but a few were protected by Park staff and will be hatching any day if they haven't already.

ARTIFICIAL TURTLE NESTING MOUND

One special change to the Park this year was the addition of an artificial turtle nesting mound. Many of you may have seen this mound located near the bird viewing platform at the camp office and noticed that it is surrounded by fencing to keep animals away from the road (Figure 1).

Although no nesting turtles were detected this summer, we are hopeful that in years to come the mound will experience a large number of nesting females.

ASSISTANT MARY BALSDON

A special thanks goes out to Mary Balsdon this year, who worked daily with me searching the roads for all these critters. She will continue her work in the fall doing her 4th year undergraduate thesis with us.

Mary is specifically interested in how long frogs stay on the road after they are hit by a car. She believes weather, scavengers, and traffic all play a role in their persistence, and hopes to develop a model which will inform our interpretation of what we *may* or *may not* find during surveys.

FENCING AND TUNNELS

The day we have all been waiting for is quickly approaching. Much of the mitigation has already been purchased including approximately 1/3 of the fencing needed (ca. 2400 m) as well as two reptile and amphibian crossing structures (tunnels) to be installed this fall and next spring. We are still trying to secure funds for the final stretch of fencing.

Two types of fencing (follow the links below if you are interested) have been selected for the Presqu'ile project (Figure 1 and 2). While we expect both styles to work, they have never been directly compared. We are excited to see how similar the results will be.

The fencing and tunnels will be arriving just in time because in the three seasons we have spent here, we have captured thousands of animals on our surveys.

ROAD SURVEYS 2013-2015

Turtles, as I have described before, are specifically at risk due to their long life spans and slow reproductive rate, and snakes are similar but to a lesser degree.

Amphibians, however, are quite different; they reproduce quickly, but what this means to us, is that they experience the highest mortality rate. In three summers, we have captured approximately 7000 amphibians on the roads (See Figure 3), **only 10%** of which have been found alive.

I look forward to mitigation going in this fall, and you may see me back in the Park sporadically until the winter. As always, it has been a great year, and I want to give a special thanks to everyone that helped out this year, stopped by to say hi, or ask what we were doing.

See you next year.

Sean P Boyle

www.animexfencing.com
www.acowildlife.com

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





Figure 1. (a) Artificial nesting mound by bird viewing platform and (b) Park Biologist, Steve Smith, holding 1m of ACO brand reptile fencing – the style installed around the nesting mound. Photos: Sean Boyle

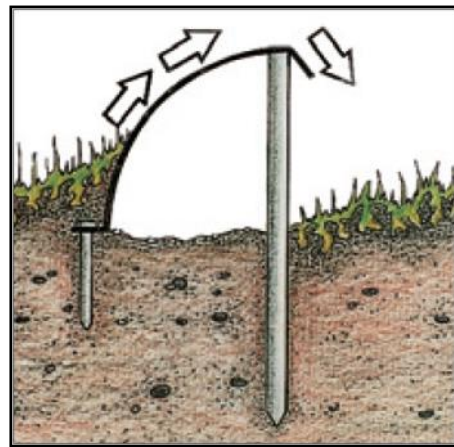
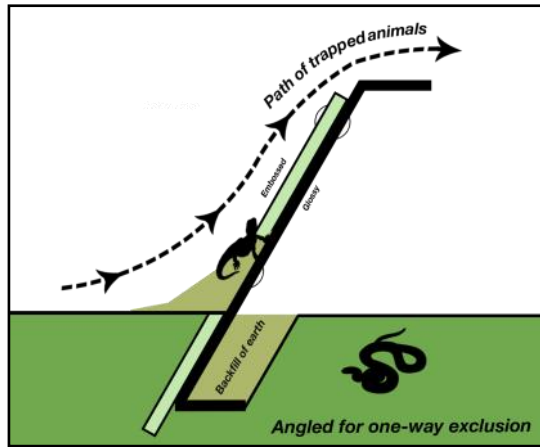


Figure 2. Two types of fencing selected for the Presqu'ile reptile and amphibian road mitigation project. Both designs are angled away from the road to allow any animals that try to cross the fence to safely 'jump-out' along any point of the fence.

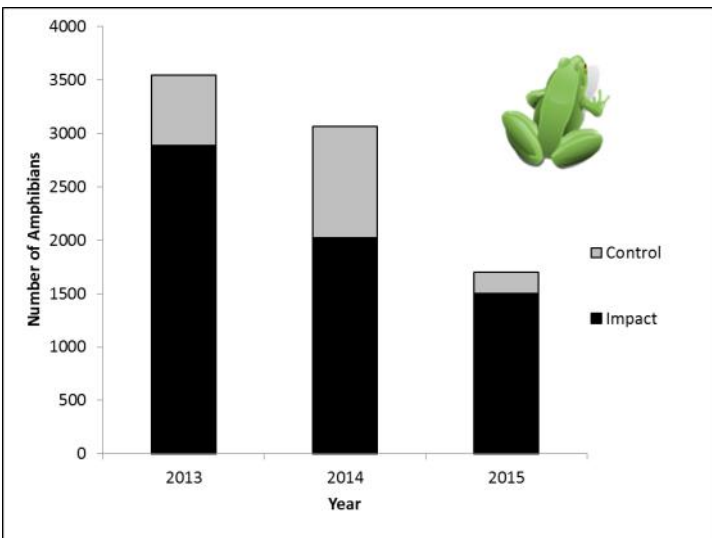


Figure 3. Number of amphibians found during road surveys from 2013-2015. Grey bars denote those individuals found at the control site (will not receive mitigation) and black bars denote those found at the impact site (which will be mitigated this fall). Note the sharp decrease in amphibians found in 2015, which could be caused by a number of environmental or biological reasons such as the extreme winter or dry spring preceding the summer.



Autumn at The Lighthouse Gift Shop

Summer has come and gone and so have our summer students, Hanna and Breanna. (We hope you had an opportunity to meet and chat with them.)

The shoulder season is now upon us and this brings an entirely new group of visitors and travellers to the Shop and Art Gallery. Many of these visitors take advantage of our fall specials as this is the time when we mark down many items in our inventory.

We carry The Friends' publications, cards, patches and pins, clothing, nature books, jewellery, binoculars, and many more useful and surprising gifts.

Our Gift Shop is open on weekends until Thanksgiving, and will re-open during Christmas at Presqu'ile Arts and Crafts Show.

Thanks to everyone who visited the Gift Shop and the Art Gallery this year. We do appreciate your support.

Joyce Boucher, Lighthouse Gift Shop

Your purchases really do make a difference.

100% OF PROCEEDS from sales at the Gift Shop remain in Presqu'ile Park to further educational objectives.



Joyce and Don Boucher

Photo: Pete Alker

To learn more about volunteering, contact Nancy Sutton at 613 475 9817.

Join or renew your membership of The Friends

Membership of The Friends of Presqu'ile offers a great opportunity to support The Friends' programs and to have fun through our volunteer opportunities.

If you have not already done so, there is still time to renew your membership for 2015-16 before our Christmas at Presqu'ile show. You can mail your cheque for \$20 to The Friends of Presqu'ile Park at PO Box 1442, Brighton, K0K 1H0.

You will find the Membership/Donation form on our website at www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca/how-to-join-us.php. And, we always appreciate donations to support our many projects in Presqu'ile Park. You can donate conveniently when you join us or make your renewal. Income tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$10 and more.

Please do tell your family and friends about the good work The Friends are doing in Presqu'ile Park and share this copy of The Beacon with them.

If you have any questions about membership of The Friends, please contact **Maureen O'Connor, our Membership/ Donations Coordinator**, at **613 475 5460**, or by e-mail at maureenfopp@gmail.com.

And, please let Maureen know about any changes to your address, telephone number, and e-mail.

Thank you for being a Friend.

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

Christmas at PRESQU'ILE ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW

Christmas at Presqu'ile is well known for being one of Eastern Ontario's premier juried arts and crafts shows, attracting thousands of visitors. This major fund-raising activity of The Friends in support of Presqu'ile Park showcases the works of over 150 artisans and craftspeople.

THE CHRISTMAS HOUSE

Normally called the Nature Centre for 50 weeks of the year, the Christmas House is a beautiful heritage home that provides an ideal setting for the carefully juried work of the artisans and craftspeople.

Because new exhibitors are added each year, return visitors to our show are guaranteed to see new creations along with old favourites. The Christmas House is open from 10 am to 4 pm.

THE TEA ROOM

Adjacent to the Christmas House is the Tea Room, located in Stonehedge, another heritage home.

Nothing tastes better, after a serious bout of shopping, than rum cake, cookies, and hot drinks. The Tea Room supplies all of these in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

THE LIGHTHOUSE ART GALLERY

The Lighthouse Interpretive Centre (LIC), just steps from the Presqu'ile Lighthouse itself, houses the Lighthouse Art Gallery and The Friends of Presqu'ile Gift Shop. Featured here are the works of our Signature Artists, who will be present to discuss their art. The LIC and Gift Shop will be open from 10 am to 5 pm.

Please mark these dates on your calendar - **November 7, 8, 11, 14, and 15**. See you there.

Christmas at Presqu'ile Committee



Christmas at Presqu'ile Committee

Back row: Linda Collins, Anne Onishchuk, and Marg Hanlan

Front row: Helen van Poorten, Leslie Scott, and Eileen Cockburn

Photo: Bob Collins

**Come and visit The Friends' display
at Brighton Applefest,
on Saturday, September 26, from 10 am until 4 pm.**

**You will find us at the south-east corner
of Memorial Park, on Main Street, Brighton.**





Presqu'ile ... my favourite Park

When I look back through all of my childhood photos, and my own photos, visits to Presqu'ile are woven throughout. I even celebrated my 16th birthday there.

Working at The Friends of Presqu'ile Gift Shop during the summers of 1991 and 1992 was definitely a highlight (*see the newspaper article on the following page*). The commute to work didn't get any better than that.

At that time, the Shop was located at the old visitor centre in the lighthouse keeper's house (which is now home to the Lighthouse Art Gallery) before the current building, The Lighthouse Interpretive Centre, was built.

John Cole, the first chair of The Friends of Presqu'ile, was in charge of the Shop and would make frequent visits to check in. I loved being at the Park every day and it was wonderful to spend time with the Park visitors.

Since then, whether I lived out of province or just a few hours away, I would get back to visit whenever I could. Luckily, I live back in the area now and my visits are more frequent as it is one of my favourite places to do photography.

Two winters ago, I bought my first telephoto lens and of course I headed to Presqu'ile Park to try it out. From that day on, I very quickly took up birding, which has allowed me to discover my favourite park in a whole new way.

Birding in the Park really connects me with the changing seasons and its different habitats. It has been a fantastic experience and here's to many more years of discovering the Park through my camera lens.

In the past, I have volunteered at Christmas at Presqu'ile and this year I will be exhibiting my photos there for the first time. This summer I also have some of my photos in The Friends' Lighthouse Gift Shop. I love the idea of the proceeds benefiting the Park.

And after all of these years, I have finally become a member of The Friends of Presqu'ile Park. I look forward to being a part of such a wonderful group.

Karina Spence



Fred Helleiner's Birding Reports are posted every week on our website,
www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca/birding-report.php

Hidden treasures at Presqu'ile Bookstore

by MEL BURNETT
Brighton Independent

There may be a business in Brighton of which Brightonians are not really aware. It's in a beautiful location, it offers top quality merchandise, has a soothing store atmosphere, and an educational touch.

The store in question is the Presqu'ile Book Store, which carries nature books from birding guides to Farley Mowat.

Although it has been in full operation for the last three years, said Friends of Presqu'iler John Cole, and visitors are fully aware of it, Brightonians themselves may be missing out on the store.

"It is a completely charitable venture," said Cole. "Only with an organization like the Friends Of Presqu'ile can we be sure the money made in the park goes back into the park."

Recently the Ministry of Natural Resources has been forced to cut park budgets. Funds from the bookstore are used to enhance the various educative programs at Presqu'ile.

During the summer months the bookstore is located in the Visitors' Centre in what used to be the Presqu'ile lighthouse keeper's cottage. In the fall the store is set up in the park house known as Stonehedge.

Aside from books involving nature, and an excellent selection of children's nature books, the store stocks T-shirts, sweatshirts, audio and visual tapes, and calendars, notebooks and notepads.

Cole admits that business has been down considerably this year due to the weather more than the state of the economy. The park, he noted, has had 40,000 fewer attendances this year than last.

Cole hopes to improve the bookstore's business this fall with a new opening for Christmas. The park is planning to revive a lost tradition called "Christmas at Rednersville". The bookstore will be open on November 7 and 8 for this occasion, along with a craft show in the



Presqu'ile Bookstore staffer Karina Spence shows one of the shop's calendars to a customer.

park. Cole added that the bookstore travels to both Applefest and the Sports Show in Brighton.

So Brightonians will get a taste of the

bookstore without having to drive down to the point. But the Presqu'ile Bookstore is just one more reason to take the drive down to the park.

Karina Spence kept this newspaper article — published when she worked in The Friends' Gift Shop during the summers of 1991 and 1992.



24th Annual
Christmas
at PRESQU'ILE
QUALITY ARTS and
CRAFTS SHOW
TEA ROOM - Desserts only

November 7, 8, 11, 14, and 15
10 am to 4 pm

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2015-16

(please check our website to confirm dates and information)

2015

September 7 to 27: Fall Interpretive Program

Friday video presentations and guided hikes on select weekends. The Lighthouse Interpretive Centre and The Friends' Gift Shop will be open weekends.

November 7 and 8, 11, 14 and 15: 24th Christmas at Presqu'ile 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.

2016

March 19 and 20: 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 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.

May 21 and 22: 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.

(date and details to be confirmed): Annual General Meeting at Stonehedge

June 11 and 18: 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 and August (dates and details to be confirmed): Kids 'n Nature Summer Day Camps, for boys and girls

July 1 to September 5: 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 BBQ, near the amphitheatre, from 11:00 am. The Nature Centre, Lighthouse Interpretive Centre, and The Friends' Gift Shop will be open daily.

July 29 to July 31: 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 3 and 4: Monarchs and Migrants Weekend, starting at 8:00 am

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

The Friends' Gift Shop will be open on the weekends until Thanksgiving, and otherwise by appointment, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

During Christmas at Presqu'ile, the Gift Shop will be open from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

For more information, please call **Joyce Boucher** at **613 475 1428**.

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.

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Edited by Jenny Alker. Thanks to all of our contributors, and to Fred Helleiner, for their help with *The Beacon*.