

The Beacon

September 2016

... from our Chair, Steve Sinclair

It was my pleasure to share with the many who attended our Annual General Meeting this past June, and now with all of you, the tremendous contribution our wonderful group of volunteers provided to Presqu'ile Park throughout 2015.

Our support of education programs, environmental initiatives, and trail construction surpassed previous years and the fundraising effort once again was outstanding.

The Park Superintendent, Rob Cunningham, reiterated that 'without The Friends many projects would not have occurred'.

As we entered the busy summer season for 2016, our Kids 'n Nature Summer Camps were able to expand due to an additional Canada Summer Jobs Grant, and we hosted more campers than ever before. Be sure to read all about it on Pages 6 and 7.



Some of our happy campers

Photo: Caroline Birch

A pilot project was announced at our AGM whereby members could stop at the front gates and pick up gloves and a garbage bag and, while walking the beach, help keep it tidy.

The westerlies continue to blow a variety of man-made items (garbage) onto our shorelines and the winds also pick up light material and blow it into the grasses.

Park Staff members do a good job grooming and cleaning, but just cannot keep up. An assessment will be done this fall to see if complaints from visitors are reduced and just how many gloves and garbage bags were handed out. There is still time to participate as long as there is an attendant on the gates (this project ends Thanksgiving weekend).

Our organization continues to undertake many important activities, and new volunteers are most welcome to join us and become members.

Please consider sharing this Beacon with newcomers to our community, family, and friends. If any of you have questions, please don't hesitate to give me or any Board Member a call to ask for more information. Volunteer opportunities and membership information are contained in the following pages.

In closing, I truly wish a fond farewell, but not goodbye, to two of our Life Members who have moved from Brighton to explore the shores of Lake Huron, near Kincardine.

Jenny and Pete Alker have been tireless volunteers for more than a decade, pitching in wherever help was needed.

I first met Peter when I signed on to help with the Marsh Boardwalk, about ten years ago and learned of the exceptional organizational and

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fundraising efforts needed to make it a reality. As well as helping to administer the donations to the Boardwalk Fund, Jenny provided motivation and energy by bringing the workers warm peach pies!

Peter chaired our Communications Committee and, with Jenny, provided not only outstanding leadership but hands-on writing, editing, advertising, and display production.

Many of you know them from participation at Christmas at Presqu'ile and many other activities. Both have been Board Members and their dedication, passion, and commitment to The Friends are something to be admired.

When Jenny finished her two terms on the Board, she became our recording Secretary, scribing and editing

minutes for our meetings. I personally, and also on behalf of my fellow Board Members and members at large, want to publicly thank both Peter and Jenny for their outstanding contributions.

Typical of them both, they continue to provide remote support with the Communications Committee and Website transition, and in the production of this Beacon newsletter.

We will miss their frequent visits and in-person participation but know that Presqu'ile will remain a big part of their hearts and visits in future will be special for them and for us.

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.

The Friends' website



Feedback from visitors to our website is always welcome.

If you have any photographs taken in Presqu'ile, and have a caption and/or a background story behind your photos, we hope that you will share them with us.

Contact us by e-mail at info@friendsofpresquile.on.ca

Congratulations to the two winners of the Bushnell Raffle



We run a number of fundraising raffles throughout the year, and all the proceeds go towards educational programs and interpretive projects in Presqu'ile Park.

The first raffle of 2016 was the **Bushnell Raffle**. We started selling tickets during the Waterfowl Weekend in March and the draw took place at the close of Warblers and Whimbrels Weekend in May. Thank you to Bushnell for donating the prizes.

Congratulations to **John Van Beek**, of Lindsay, (Bushnell Scope and Tripod), and **Jeff Gooley**, of Toronto, (Bushnell Binoculars).

Please see page 13 for information about our main raffle for 2016.

Find out more about The Friends of Presqu'ile



We are always keen to talk about The Friends, and the programs and activities that we support in Presqu'ile Park.

So, if you know of any group or organization who would be interested in finding out more, please send an e-mail to us at:

info@friendsofpresquile.on.ca

The subject and length of our presentation can be tailored to suit the audience.

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Joan Selwood, honoured at the AGM



Joan Selwood received The John Cole Award at this year's Annual General Meeting Photo: Pete Alker

The John Cole Award, honouring our Volunteer of the Year, was presented at the AGM to **Joan Selwood**, a long-standing member who 'flies under the radar'.

Joan joined The Friends in 2002 and was quickly adopted by the Christmas at Presqu'ile team. She works tirelessly with the Tea Room team throughout the show that takes place in November.

As well, Joan can be found volunteering in the Lighthouse Interpretive Centre and at the various out- of-Park events that The Friends attend, such as Brighton History Weekend in February.

A few years ago, Joan spent much time researching and putting together the history of the 4 cottages in the Park (information can be found on our website).

Many congratulations to Joan.

GIVE A LITTLE, GAIN A LOT!

The Friends of Presqu'ile Park are seeking new volunteers to help with the running of our established programs and to develop new initiatives.

As part of a volunteer-driven charitable organization, we are all devoted to ensuring that there are learning, recreational, and conservation opportunities for all.

We need additional volunteers to help us in the following areas:

- ◇ Christmas at Presqu'ile Arts and Crafts Show
- ◇ Office and technical support
- ◇ Committee members

There are so many ways in which you can support our educational programs and environmental initiatives.

Please visit our website www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca for more details, or call our Volunteer Coordinator, **Nancy Sutton**, at **613 475 9817**, or you can send us an e-mail to info@friendsofpresquile.on.ca.

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

Introducing Donal Gray, who is taking over from Pete Alker as our Website Coordinator

My first real introduction to the Park came with an e-mail, asking for volunteers to monitor a nesting pair of Piping Plovers. These species are on the endangered species list (see page 8).

While my work years had been immersed in technology in many fields, I wanted something different. With the start of retirement, finding such a hands-on opportunity to give back to nature was uplifting.

Up to that point, volunteering for me had been sitting on Church Council or as President of a local chapter of the Navy League (Naval Cadets).

To be able to volunteer in Presqu'ile, by building boardwalks or being a trail monitor, both physical

outdoor activities, is very exciting!

Along with the physical volunteering, I found that my technical side could also find a use. As the Web Coordinator, I can help bring the many activities of this organization to the public.



I look forward to being a volunteer to help in making the Park a place where everyone wants to visit and invite anyone with an interest in the Park to join in.

Donal Gray, Website Coordinator

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

The Friends' Lighthouse GIFT SHOP



Photo: P Alker

The Friends' Lighthouse Gift Shop is stocked with special products just for you.

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

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.

For more information, please call us at **613 475 1688** and don't forget to drop in for a chat.

FREE WiFi (provided by The Friends) available from May to November. Call in to the Gift Shop for the current password.

If you would like to volunteer in our Gift Shop, please contact us at info@friendsofpresquile.on.ca.

Some Factoids ...

... from the AGM

In 2015, The Friends contributed about \$87,000 to Presqu'ile Park, in educational programs and environmental projects (up 34% from 2014).

The Gross Financial Contribution in 2015 was up 233%, when compared to 2010.

Between 2010 and 2015, we spent almost \$500,000 achieving our vision.

... about Christmas at Presqu'ile Arts and Crafts

This year we mark our 25th annual show. Over 250 volunteers help to make this show such a huge success.

... about Kids 'n Nature

100 boys and girls attended our 2016 Kids 'n Nature Summer Camps (in 2015 we had 80 campers).

1895 students participated in our Kids n' Nature School Group Program during the spring shoulder season in 2016.

BARBEQUES

The Friends hold our fund-raising BBQs on the Saturday and Sunday of the birding weekends (Waterfowl in March, and Warblers and Whimbrels in May), and on Saturdays during the summer.

Of the nine summer Saturdays in 2016, we were rained out only once — making a total of 12 BBQ days.

Visitors from near and far (from the USA and Quebec) enjoy burgers, hot dogs, sausages, peameal bacon, and more — we have fun spending time with our fellow park lovers.

Also, our faithful regulars from Brighton come into the Park, especially for lunch.

Our BBQ team consists of about 10 regular volunteers: May Davies, John and Gillian Roulston, Leslie and Jack Scott, Glenn Spence, Nancy and Brian Sutton, as well as Ruth Calverly and Bill White; we welcome other volunteers who are keen to help out from time to time.



Our final Saturday BBQ of 2016

Photo: Steve Sinclair

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

Kids 'n Nature team for 2016



Photo: Caroline Birch

Krista Neilly

'I am so pleased to be returning as the lead Interpreter with the Kids 'n Nature program this year. I hope to bring new ideas and fun activities to both the classroom and our four exciting summer camps for the 2016 season.'

As some things never change, you can still find me around the Park on weekends looking for birds and taking photographs of anything that strikes my fancy – feel free to come and say hello!

When I'm not out birding, I spend my spare time knitting, baking, and reading piles and piles of books.'

Caroline Birch

'If you think you've spotted a lion's mane running through the Park or see someone trying to blend in with a grove of Birch trees, have no fear – it's probably me.'

I am very excited to join The Friends of Presqu'ile family this year as the new Assistant Kids 'n Nature Interpreter.

As a Brighton local, I have been exploring the Park for as long as I can remember and am looking forward to spending my summer in the Park alongside people who share the same passion for the outdoors.'



Photo: Krista Neilly

This year the **Kids 'n Nature** Program welcomed a third staff member for the camp season. The Friends were fortunate to receive a Canada Summer Jobs grant to be able to hire **Carrie Minns** for 8 weeks. Having an extra staff member made the camp days run more smoothly and allowed us to add 5 more campers to each session.

Carrie Minns

'Hey everyone! My name is Carrie Minns, one of the Assistant Nature Interpreters for The Friends of Presqu'ile Kids N' Nature Summer Camp.'

I am thrilled to be working in one of my favourite provincial parks alongside Caroline and Krista. I can't wait to show some amazing kids all of the things that Presqu'ile has to offer and how to better appreciate and respect our Provincial Parks.

When I'm not in the Park, you will still be able to find me surrounded by nature—hiking, camping, biking, swimming, and enjoying the outdoors. I hope to see you around!'



Photo: Caroline Birch

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



Photos: Caroline Birch

SUMMER CAMP

This summer, my own oldest child was finally old enough to attend one of our Kids 'n Nature camps, and it was definitely worth the wait.

Each day, as I dropped her off, it was rewarding to observe our fantastic staff making a personal connection with each kid, eager campers so excited to get on the bus, and adults who were pleased to know their kids were happy and in good hands.

Here is a quote from a parent and a grandparent:

'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. Excellent effort and personal touches. I felt very safe and am appreciative for all the effort! Thank you!'

'Camp leaders always met you with a smile, always said hello and goodbye, and were very helpful. Always felt my grandson was safe and watched over. Excellent program and will return...'

There were lots of hugs and emotional goodbyes at the end of each camp week!



Thank you to our leaders for providing a top notch camp experience, despite the challenging heat and humidity!

Caroline and **Carrie** have ended their contracts on the last day of camp and are headed back to university.

Krista will continue on in September and October to deliver our fall School Group Program.

Big thanks to our enthusiastic lifeguards **Jared**, **Georgia**, **Meaghan**, and **Delphine** for a job well done.

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Photo: Caroline Birch

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All four of our camp weeks were fully subscribed. Our themes this year were **Water World**, **Super Survival**, **Forest Adventures**, and **Shipwrecks and Pirates**.

We were able to extend registration to 25 kids per camp this year, as we received a grant from Canada Summer Jobs to hire our third camp leader, Carrie.

That adds up to 100 lucky participants in our **Kids 'n Nature** Summer Camp program.

And, thank you to the **Trenton Rope Store**. The owner was so generous and donated all the para-cord we used for the campers to make bracelets each week, as well as some rope we needed for equipment.

SPRING SCHOOL GROUP PROGRAM

Earlier in the year, our interpreters, **Krista** and **Caroline** 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 797 children in 38 classes, and in-Park programs to 998 children in 44 classes.

So far this year, and adding in the campers, 1895 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@friendsofpresquile.on.ca

*Janine McClintock,
Education and Interpretation*

Parent expresses gratitude to our Kids 'n Nature Summer Camp team - they were 'a wonderful, caring, and supportive team'

... I am writing to express my sincere gratitude regarding the **Kids 'n Nature** Programs. My daughter participated in two sessions, *Water World* and *Shipwrecks and Pirates*. She had a wonderful experience during both camps.

I was particularly impressed with the extensive organization that was evident from the outset. As a parent, I appreciated the welcome letter and the weekly agenda. The fact that the Camp Leaders listed their cell phone numbers provided extra assurance to me as a parent. The activities offered were varied and provided for learning, application of knowledge, interaction, and fun. I was very impressed with the personal touches offered with the journals, photographs, certificates, name tags, crafts, and the professional sign-in/out sheets.

... As an educator, I saw a lot of teaching strategies that Caroline and Carrie used in their interactions with the campers. I was impressed with the higher level thinking activities, and the balance with the fun games and team building activities as well as the cultural learning.

... I would highly recommend the camps and wish to personally extend my heartfelt thanks to a wonderful, caring, and supportive team.

Best

*Nora Christos, B.A.H., B.Ed., M.Ed.,
Lead Teacher, English Department,
East Northumberland Secondary School*

Presqu'ile Piping Plovers - 100 years in the making

This year marked the first time **Piping Plovers** are known to have nested at Presqu'ile in 100 years. These are small shorebirds that nest on sandy beaches.

They declined rapidly in North America after WWII as more and more people used sandy beaches to play on. By the mid-1980s there were only 12 nesting pairs left on the Great Lakes, all in Michigan. The Americans put in a conservation program and slowly the numbers increased.

At Presqu'ile we have seen Piping Plovers every spring for the last decade but these birds always moved on. There are no records of Piping Plovers having stayed to nest since 1916.

Then, this year three birds, hatched at Wasaga Beach in 2015, showed up at Presqu'ile in mid-May. Instead of moving on, the birds started exhibiting breeding behaviour! Two males were courting the single female.



Dad with numbered band

Photo: D Bree

To make it more of a dramatic romantic triangle, numbered bands on the birds' legs indicated the two males were brothers! In the end, one brother won out and by June 3 we had a nest with 4 eggs.

Now, when an endangered species starts nesting in your park all kinds of legislative requirements kick in. We could no longer rake the beach within 500 metres of the nest and we had to put in place some protective measures. A 100m square exclusion rope fence went up around the nest and a 3 metre 'cage' went over the nest. This cage had holes big enough for the small plovers to get through but kept out potential predators such as gulls, raccoons, and coyotes.

The other thing we needed were people to keep an eye on the birds and tell other beach goers about them and why certain areas of the beach could not be used. An appeal went out from The Friends' website, which was



Building nest enclosure at Presqu'ile

Photo: D Bree

passed on to others, and we got an overwhelming response of people wanting to help.

We were also able to hire a student, Elizabeth Steadman, to coordinate these volunteers. What started out looking like an overwhelming task now became manageable.

After a start-up orientation meeting, three three-hour shifts a day were organized of 1 or 2 volunteers to set up on the beach and be **Plover Monitors**. Monitoring started on June 23 and really picked up after the chicks hatched on June 28.



3-day old chick, July 1

Photo: L Abram

Only 3 eggs hatched but these gave both parents and monitors all they could handle as they would often wander in three different directions at once and then seemingly disappear for an hour or two when they lay down for a nap.

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Piping Plover chicks warming up under adult wing. At 7 days, they are so big that the third chick has to wait its turn to fit. Photo: K Spence



2 4-week old chicks, July 24 Photo: K Spence

Volunteers realized they needed to be on the beach longer than the nine hours and pushed for early morning and evening shifts, which we instigated during the busiest times.

Everyone persevered, and the chicks learned to listen to their parents, stayed safe, and grew up. As is usual, the Mom left 13 days after hatching and the Dad left after the chicks started flying at 4 weeks of age.

The last three weeks were a period of winding down the monitoring as the chicks moved up and down the beach and even over to the islands. They were harder to keep track of but we wanted to keep tabs on them so we would know for sure when they left.

Our core volunteers kept at it and the last chick was seen on Monday, August 15, 7 weeks after hatching.

We had done it! Helped a fragile endangered species raise a family and see them on their way in two months. They are on their own now and hopefully will prosper and we will see some or all of these birds back in 2017.

It was a remarkable achievement and one possible only through the help of 49 different individuals that spent 700+ person hours on the beach and talked to scores of people about what special event was unfolding on Presqu'ile Beach.

A job well done and a big **THANK YOU** to all.

*David Bree,
Sr. Natural Heritage Education Leader*



6-week old chicks napping by driftwood Photo: E Steadman



Plover chick stretching its wings, getting ready to fly away Photo: E Steadman

Research at Presqu'ile Park is primarily intended to assist species or habitats at risk.

Natural Heritage Education - Summer 2016



Natural Heritage Education Staff for 2016: Natasha, Natalie, Vivienne, Kristen, Riley, Allyson, Laura, Rachel, Brittany, and Meaghan

The summer of 2016 will no doubt be known as one of the hottest and driest on record. What this meant at the Park was higher visitation than normal, with many going to the beach, but also to our visitor centres and programs.

For me personally, it was the summer of the Piping Plover, and I spent much time on the beach and organizing the plover monitoring volunteers and coordinator (*see page 8*), at the expense of Natural Heritage Education (NHE).

There was some talk that NHE students had felt like orphans with their *Plover Dad* away. No worries though as the NHE crew were effectively led by veterans **Allyson Parker** (8 years at Presqu'ile Park), **Laura McClintock** (5 years) and **Kristen Osborne** (4 years) in the Nature Centre.

Other returning staff, **Natasha Lewis**, **Vivienne Wu**, and **Rachel Revoy**, also helped get the newer staff, **Natalie Iezzi**, **Riley Hannigan**, **Meaghan Peterson**, and **Brittany Stevens** up and running. And run they did, presenting over 180 programs in 10 weeks!

Programs ranged from Spinning (wool) Demonstrations, Insect Avengers, Fossil Hunts, to screaming baby birds at Monarchs and Migrants Weekend.

We partnered with the **Belleville Astronomy Club** this year for an exploration of the solar system that went from the day use area to Jupiter and beyond.

Other special guests this year included **Peter Solmes** for a CD release on Canada Day and **Learn to Fish** on Labour Day Weekend.

Peter Solmes was also back for his regular gig during History Weekend, which is always a highlight of the summer, involving the whole NHE staff for the whole weekend.

While all the NHE staff put in an exemplary effort this year, our end of season NHE awards did highlight a few individuals.

Rachel Ravoy was presented with the Lighthouse Award for her work in the Lighthouse Interpretive Centre and **Brittany Stevens** received the Nature Centre Award. **Natasha Lewis** received the Wise Owl Award for top score on our weekly quizzes illustrating her knowledge of Presqu'ile nature and history. Congratulations to all.

It was a busy, hot, and sticky summer, and exhaustion was shown on many faces by the end, but the NHE staff, along with all our Park co-workers, worked hard throughout to provide our visitors with a memorable and enjoyable visit.

As always, thanks to The Friends for supporting staff positions so that we can continue to provide quality educational programs.

David Bree,

Natural Heritage Education Leader

(Note: NHE students hired because of the financial support of The Friends are: Kristen, Natasha, Meaghan, and Brittany.)



Rachel Revoy with visitors in the Lighthouse Interpretive Centre



Laura McClintock presents Natasha Lewis with the Wise Owl Award 2016



Kristen Osborne presents Brittany Stevens with the Nature Centre Award 2016

Photos: David Bree

Mark your Calendar for the 25th annual 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 130 artisans and craftspeople.

Our 2016 Christmas at Presqu'ile Committee consists of 6 volunteers: **Eileen Cockburn, Linda Collins, Marg Hanlan, Anne Onishchuk, Helen van Poorten, and Lesley Scott.**

We are very grateful to the **250 or so dedicated volunteers** who help with every phase of the show.

THE CHRISTMAS HOUSE

Otherwise known as 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 about 20 new exhibitors are added each year, return visitors to our show are guaranteed to see new arts and crafts 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 The Friends' Gift Shop will be open from 10 am to 5 pm.



Photos: Ted Amsden

All of us look forward to another successful **Christmas at Presqu'ile Arts and Crafts Show**. Please mark these dates on your calendar - **November 5, 6, 9, 12, and 13, 2016**. See you there.

Christmas at Presqu'ile Committee

Find out more about membership of The Friends

Membership of The Friends of Presqu'ile offers a great opportunity to support your community and have fun through our Volunteer Program. And, volunteering can be as little or as much as suits you.

Our family membership fee of \$20 has not changed in over 10 years — a small price to pay for an organization that achieves so much.

If you would like to learn more about membership of The Friends, please contact me at **613 475 5460** or by e-mail at **maureenfopp@gmail.com**.

Maureen O'Connor, Membership/Donations Coordinator

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

Volunteers make improvements to the Pioneer and Newcastle Trails

Many trail monitors, volunteers, and Park Staff were busy, for the third year, replacing old footbridges (*aka boardwalks*), lengthening some, and spanning additional wet areas.

Since the fall of 2014, the team has built 6 footbridges on Pioneer Trail, almost 700 feet in length.

This year, the Park has been more diligent in cutting grass on the sides of the trails to help walkers and dogs avoid deer ticks. A big thank you to them.

So, the Pioneer Trail is much more user-friendly. It is now possible to walk this trail much later into a wet fall and weeks earlier in the spring.

If you see further improvements that might be needed, please call me at **705 295 6967** or contact The Friends at info@friendsofpresquile.on.ca.

The Pioneer Trail can be accessed at the car park just past the day-use area, or, in the shoulder seasons, from the Campground Office car park.

The south section of the Newcastle Trail was also improved last month, and next year the north section will be addressed.

So, happy walking – please let us know what you think.

John Cockburn

Photos: Dan Essery



Come and visit the Park's and The Friends' display at Brighton Applefest, on Saturday, September 24, from 10 am until 4 pm.

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





The Friends of Presqu'ile Park's 2016 RAFFLE



ENJOY THE PARK

WIN one of four fabulous prizes

1st Prize: 2 nights' stay in Clarke/Denson Cottage, Presqu'ile Park
- spring or fall during 2017

2nd Prize: Annual Ontario Parks' Pass - 2017/8

3rd Prize: 1 week at Kids 'n Nature Summer Day Camp - 2017

4th Prize: 2 nights' camping on a hydro site - 2017



Clarke-Denson Cottage



2017 Annual Pass



Kids 'n Nature
Summer Camp 2017



Camping on a hydro site in Presqu'ile

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 9, 2016.

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

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

Licence No: M 713364

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2016-17

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

2016

September 10 to 24: 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 5 and 6, 9, 12 and 13: 25th 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 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**.

2017

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 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 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, 10:30 am

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 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.

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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