

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF BONNECHERE PARKS

FALL 2002

www.bonnecherepark.on.ca

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Each September my family participates in the annual Bonnechere Dig, Pig 'n Jig. This year, as usual, my husband and son headed down to the Davenport Centre to help roast the pig, while my 10 year-old daughter and I joined the archaeological dig. Julia says this is one her most favorite days of the year – a sentiment I find reassuring in this era of electronic toys and multi-media gadgetry.

As we carefully dug into the history of the Lafleur homestead on that warm autumn day, the discussion wound its way around to the value of historic museums in modern society. At one point, Tom Ballantine wondered aloud if museums weren't becoming "a thing of the past." His years of experience as a curator provide a unique vantage point from which to observe how and when society uses its historic collections. While my first instinct was to dismiss his comment as dry wit, I soon realized he had a point. If we don't use them, we could lose them.

Then this past month, Carmen Goold, Ontario Ministries of Citizenship, Culture, Tourism and Recreation, and Paul Lima, Heritage Canada, introduced our board to the Virtual Museum Canada Web site: www.virtualmuseum.ca. This amazing portal exports Canadian cultural heritage to the world. One can explore, learn, laugh, listen, cry and share with the images and artifacts that have made Canada what it is – without leaving home!

Our past holds the key to the future, and our museums – real or virtual – are its prime caretakers. It's for this reason that the Friends strive to protect the natural and cultural heritage of the Little Bonnechere. And an honourable challenge it is.

Betty Biesenthal, Editor

FBP CONTINUE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Ottawa River Legacy Landmark Network

In September 2002 the FBP, with financial support from the Ministry of Citizenship [MCZCTR], hosted a two-day workshop for senior-level participants representing 12 municipalities along the Ottawa River from New Liskeard to Hawkesbury. These included mayors, council representatives responsible for tourism and economic development, planners, and other community leaders who are recognized as visionaries or key influencers within their respective communities. The objectives of the workshop were two-fold:

1. To provide participants with a toolkit of opportunity comprised of information and resources from relevant provincial ministries and agencies, details of funding programs, the importance of public-private partnerships, the current status and trends in the tourism industry, and the opportunities that exist for new tourism product development.
2. To disseminate detailed information from the Canadian Heritage Rivers System and explore the level of interest among the communities to pursue this for the Ottawa River.

Other events held as part of the workshop included a ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open the first Ottawa River Legacy Landmark Network kiosk on the shores of the Ottawa River at Petawawa Point; exhibits to Showcase Ontario; and guest speaker Ben Babelowsky, a landscape artist best known for his scenes of Ottawa area neighborhoods, the Rideau Canal's 150th anniversary and the Tall Ships collection. The paintings in his 2003 calendar *Our Rivers: Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec* are devoted to the culture, history and communities of the Ottawa Valley and the Outaouais.

At the opening of the workshop, Mary Beach, Regional Manager, MCZCTR [*above photo, right*] presented FBP Founding Board Member Jane Duff with a commemorative plaque acknowledging the 10th Anniversary of the Friends. The plaque recognizes the **dedication of the Friends members and their efforts which demonstrate how effectively a small group of volunteers can make a significant difference.**



Dave Croft

Recipient of the 2002 FBP Directors' Award

On August 10, 2002, in a moving ceremony held in the Davenport Cultural Resource Centre of Bonnechere Provincial Park, David J.A. Croft received The Friends of Bonnechere Provincial Parks Board of Directors Award. Park Superintendent (on secondment) Jim Fraser and last year's recipient, artist Herschel Payne, presented the award to Dave. As the ceremony coincided with the OAS Ottawa Chapter's annual Public Archaeology Day in the Park, several Chapter members were in attendance.

Earlier in the day, Dave had spent several hours demonstrating ancient technologies to a large turn out of interested campers. Presenting Archaeology Day in Bonnechere Provincial Park is one of the Ottawa Chapter's most long-lived and successful public outreach programs. Dave has been a consistent and popular fixture at this event.

It was a pleasure to see Dave recognized by the Board of Directors of the Bonnechere Friends. Contributing to the Ottawa Chapter's Public Archaeology Day is only a small part of his contribution to the Upper Ottawa Valley Communities. He is also a regular speaker in the area's schools and considers getting the next generation knowledgeable and excited about archaeological conservation an important responsibility.

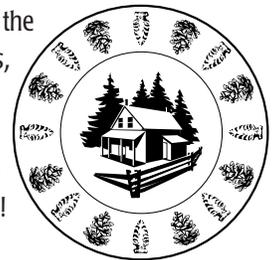
Dave has also been a valuable volunteer member of archaeological efforts at both the Basin Depot and Lafleur Homestead Sites over the past seven years. Volunteers and members of the OAS Ottawa Chapter have excavated on both sites since 1995. They are located in Algonquin and Bonnechere Provincial Parks, respectively. Dave Croft's contributions to shovel testing on the beach at Bonnechere as well as to numerous dig weeks and dig weekends have been appreciated by Bonnechere Park's Superintendent Jim Fraser, Acting Superintendent Vicki Bradley, Field Director Thomas Ballantine, Chapter members and members of the public who have occasionally joined these motley crews. Dave's knowledge of aboriginal and Euro-Canadian artifacts is admirable. He is equally at home on either kind of site and never discriminates.

Last year, Dave volunteered five full days at the Lafleur Homestead Site during an integrated educational archaeology pilot project for Grade 5 students from Renfrew County. This unique opportunity, described as an "intense mingling of archaeological excavation, laboratory work, plant succession studies, oral history and architecture" was funded by a grant from the Canadian Parks Partnership. Rave reviews received from local teachers and students included many kudos for Mr. Croft. His patience with young people is worth emulating. He is an exceptional instructor, able to sustain enthusiasm for an entire school day and just downright nice! After classes departed the site, crew members enjoyed being regaled with stories of Dave's experiences on previous excavations. He enthusiastically examined all the "pretty rocks" retained by students. A local type of quartzite was thoroughly checked for evidence of alteration. His knowledge of agricultural implements continues to be an asset to current analyses.

Six years after receiving The Ontario Archaeological Society's highest honour, The J. Norman Emerson Silver Medal, David J.A. Croft continues to play an active role in archaeology, particularly in the area of public outreach and education. After presenting Dave with the Emerson Medal in 1996, O.A.S. President John Steckley admired his "quiet dignity". Upon receiving The Friends of Bonnechere Parks Board of Directors Award, the same quiet dignity was apparent.

The actual Friends of Bonnechere Parks Board of Directors Award is about the size of the small saucer uncovered by the late Peggi Armstrong in 1996 at Basin Depot. Each saucer bears a projectile point motif alternating with pine cones, representing the past and the future. The reverse side bears the name of the recipient. Affectionately known as the "Peggi Plate", the Friends chose to remember Peggi by having these individual awards created and awarded periodically. A plaque explaining the award as a memorial to Peggi and Helen Armstrong hangs in the Davenport Centre at the Park. Dave is a most worthy recipient. Peggi and her mum Helen would have both been proud to have "Croft" receive it!

Written by Ellen Blaubergs and Rory MacKay. Reprinted with permission from Frank Dieterman, Editor, OAS ARCH NOTES.



www.virtualmuseum.ca

Heritage Canada sponsors this unique Web site which brings Canadian historic collections into our homes through the use of internet technology. Visitors can enjoy various themed exhibits, create a personal museum of favourite pieces, shop online from museum gift shops across Canada, or play on-line games. It's also a valuable resource for educators.

The FBP has applied for funding from the Virtual Museum of Canada (VMC) Community Memories Program which would provide the opportunity to record local history and develop related on-line exhibits. The resulting productions will lead to a unique online portrait of Canada's history to be launched as a new section of the VMC early in 2003.





Leaves of three? Let it be!

Poison Ivy is widespread throughout southern Ontario and reaches north as far as Cochrane and Kenora. Although it is not widespread at Bonnechere Provincial Park, it is present in a few small patches. It is also found along the south beach at Foy Property Provincial Park.

Poison ivy secretes oil called *urushiol* that reacts to proteins in the human body. When the oil makes contact with skin it sometimes causes a rash which can be inflamed, painful and itchy.

Different people have different sensitivity to the oil. All parts of the plant except its pollen contain urushiol. Tearing or bruising any part of the plant releases the oil which may come in contact with exposed parts of skin directly or indirectly by handling contaminated objects. The oil can be transferred to your skin from your clothing or footwear. The oil can persist for a long time, sometimes for more than a year, after it is brushed onto something like clothes, soil or animals. It can even be carried by smoke from burning plants. Animals do not react to the oil, however a sensitive person can be affected by merely petting an animal that has been contaminated.

The first signs of a reaction is usually a light itching. The itching sensation increases and anywhere between a few hours to a few days later small watery blisters appear. In more severe reactions these blisters eventually burst to become oozing sores, which finally dry up and form scabs.

Where can you find poison ivy? How do you identify it? Poison ivy is an extremely variable plant. It can grow in heavy wooded areas or in the open, in dry sandy areas or swamps, along the edges of woodlots and roadsides. Usually it forms low growing dense patches that can sometimes carpet a fairly large area. The leaves of poison ivy are compound, each consisting of three leaflets. The stalk of the middle leaflet is always longer than the stalks of the other two leaflets. All three leaf stalks are joined together at the tip of a much longer stalk called the petiole. Early in the spring the leaves are reddish or bronzy green. In the summer, when you are most likely to encounter this plant in the park, the leaves are deep to bright green and often shiny. In the fall, the leaves will often turn a reddish colour before dropping to the ground. The edges of the leaf vary from being perfectly smooth to being finely or coarsely toothed. The undersides of the leaves can be finely hairy, or almost without hairs. After the leaves have dropped off in the fall poison ivy can be identified by the clusters of greyish to white waxy looking berries on short upright stems. Plants that can be mistaken for poison ivy include: clematis, hog-peanut and ground nut, raspberry and blackberry and Virginia creeper.

So why not eradicate poison ivy? Like all plants, it does have some value. Birds eat the berries and insects found among the vines. Small mammals and deer eat the leaves, twigs and berries.

If you come in contact with poison ivy:

- Remove any clothing and footwear carefully, preferably wearing gloves; wash repeatedly with soap and water.
- Wash contaminated areas of the skin carefully soap and cold water.
- Most mild reactions can be treated with readily available first aid ointments.
- If a serious reaction develops, seek the advice of a doctor for proper treatment.
- Skin irritation normally disappears in a week to 10 days.
- The best advice: *Leaves of three - let it be!*

Submitted by Olesia Van Dyke, Bonnechere Provincial Park Planner.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND **Wilderness Skills Course**

As a result of popular demand, this special course for outdoor enthusiasts is being offered twice this year at the Ministry of Natural Resources office in Pembroke. The course features map and compass use, wilderness skills, Global Positioning Systems [GPS] along with a variety of other useful and potentially life-saving outdoor techniques.

Each course consists of four sessions, Tuesday and Thursday evenings, from 7:00pm to 9:30pm. Total course time is 10 hours, plus assignments.

Course 1:

January 28, 30; February 4, 6

Course 2:

February 11, 13, 18, 20

Location:

Ministry of Natural Resources

31 Riverside Drive

Pembroke

Cost: \$25 donation to FBP

Charitable tax receipts issued.

Course instructor and Master Canoeist **Fred Blackstein** will lead these sessions which are a modified version of those hosted for local Search and Rescue volunteers. The program is sponsored by the FBP.

For further information call:

Vicki Bradley at Bonnechere Park
613-757-2103 or

Laurie Fraser at MNR 613-732-5506 or
pick up an application at the Ontario
Government Information Centre,
Ministry of Natural Resources,
31 Riverside Drive, Pembroke.

MANY THANKS!

A big thank-you goes out to Fred Blackstein who hosts the Wilderness Skills Course on behalf of the FBP. Each year we raise about \$2000 through this program to support various Friends initiatives. Thanks Fred, you're a true Friend!

Launch 2002: *Walks of the Little Bonnechere*

On Saturday, July 13, the FBP celebrated the 25th Anniversary of Bonnechere Park by launching our latest book, *Walks of the Little Bonnechere*. This guidebook features ten walks of various distances and level of difficulty at areas of historic and natural interest including Basin Depot, Egg Rock, the Lafleur Homestead and Omanique Mill. At right, co-authors **Rory Mackay** and **Mark Stabb** celebrate their latest achievement



Many thanks to the Friends of Algonquin and the Healthy Living Partnership of the Renfrew County and District Health Unit for supporting this publication.

For folks who hold these places close to their heart, note that we have erected guide posts at each of the 10 sites. For \$75 you can have a commemorative brass plaque attached to one of these. Act fast, five of the sites have already been spoken for.

For information, please contact Jim Fraser 613-732-5574.

Management Plan Update

The *Issues and Option Report for the Management Plan* is currently with Zone and Head Offices awaiting approval. Once this has been achieved, the document will be printed and distributed to everyone on the current plan mailing list. Subsequently, an open house will be held at the Davenport Center to provide an opportunity for discussing its contents. This will be followed by a 45-day comment period, after which the Draft Management Plan will be written. All comments received will be considered during the preparation of the Draft so it's not too late to get involved in the planning process. For those of you who have been keeping track – it can be a long process. If you would like to be added to the plan mailing list, or would like to discuss the plan, contact Olesia Van Dyke through the park office at 613-757-2103, or email: olesia.vandyke@mnr.gov.on.ca.

Submitted by Olesia Van Dyke, Bonnechere Provincial Park Planner.

Turn Your Winter Reading Into Summer Sharing

This past summer Park regulars will have noted that the FBP operated a book and game lending library out of the Davenport Centre. By all accounts, our summer campers very much enjoyed this new service. In order to ensure continued success, we ask that you collect used books and games suitable for folks of all ages and drop them off at the Park next summer, or to any member of the FBP Board of Directors. Thanks for your support!

For more information please contact Jane Duff: 613-732-4796 or jane.duff@sympatico.ca.

A New President for the Friends

At our November meeting, the FBP acclaimed Ross Taylor of Port Perry, as new president. Ross has been camping in the Bonnechere area since 1960 with his parents, and at Bonnechere Provincial Park since it first opened in 1967. Today he shares his love for the area with his wife, Georganne and their five children. Ross works as a paramedic with the Region of Durham and in his spare time enjoys getting outdoors. Ross has been involved with Scouts Canada since his youth and is presently a Venturer Advisor.

Many thanks to our very able past-president Olesia Van Dyke who continues to sit on our Board and is actively involved in various aspects of the Park in her role as Park Planner.

We welcome aboard our newest FBP Board Member Lynn Lafrance.

WINNERS OF SUMMER RAFFLE

Nahanni Langford Canoe

Blair Ruhnke, Chalk River

Herschel Payne Poster

Georganne Taylor, Port Perry

Woods Sleeping Bag

Jon Foster, Port Hope

Woods Backpack

Ralph Shields, Deep River

Columbia Golf Shirt

Mark Hinbest, Bracebridge

Tasco Binoculars

Hugh Lafreniere, Pembroke

We would want to thank all of the sponsors who made the raffle possible and announce that we raised \$1470.

WINNERS OF MEMBERSHIP DRAW

Congratulations to:

Wilderness Tours Adventure Rafting

Ralph and Irene Mask, Bonnechere

David and Lorelei Brunton, Ashton

Bonnechere Caves Gift Certificate

Thanks to Alistair Baird of Wilderness Tours and Chris Hinsperger of the Bonnechere Caves for these prizes.



RESERVE YOUR SPOT: 1-888-ONT-PARK