

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF BONNECHERE PARKS

FALL 2006

www.bonnecherepark.on.ca

Email to Editor: bettyb@nrco.net

Board of Directors

Jane Duff 1993
Laurie Fraser 1993
Betty Biesenthal 1994
Ross Taylor 1995
Lynn Lafrance 2002
Anne Burchat 2002

Slate of Officers

President: Ross Taylor
Treasurer: Jane Duff
Secretary: Laurie Fraser

Committee Chairs

Heritage Resources

Jim Fraser 1993

Education Outreach

Laurie Fraser

Membership

Ross Taylor

Grants and Publicity

Betty Biesenthal

Park Superintendent

Jim Fraser 613-757-2103

Park Clerk

Amanda Phanehour

Friends of Bonnechere Parks
4024 Round Lake Road
RR5, Killaloe ON K0J 2A0



I don't think I am an exception when I say that as a volunteer I often feel that as I am busy doing my thing, I often assume I am invisible. Don't take me wrong – I don't mean that in a negative sense. I simply mean that if I and my fellow FBP volunteers are helping to host an event that we truly see ourselves in the background. We make sure that hot dogs are cooked, guests get introduced and hikes are guided. On our home turf books get balanced, the website is updated, minutes are recorded and programs get funded. No job is insignificant in achieving the successes we have realized. But last August, at the launch of the Land of the Spirits virtual exhibit, one small – but hardly insignificant – incident made me reconsider these assumptions. All morning the OAS Ottawa Chapter members had hosted a very well attended Archeology for Kids program, then at noon we demonstrated the virtual exhibit to a full house inside the Davenport Centre. It was a busy day for Park guests and volunteers alike. As the celebrations were drawing to a close and I stood chatting with a guest, a woman with child in tow approached, took my hand and in a heavy European accent thanked me profusely for the day and for the website. What can I say: I guess who we are and what we do isn't so invisible after all!

Betty Biesenthal, Editor

Land of the Spirits Website Goes Live

On August 12, the FBP launched its new website celebrating the natural and cultural heritage of the Little Bonnechere River. Entitled, Land of the Spirits, this interactive exhibit tells the story of discovery and settlement over the centuries in and around the now abandoned hamlet of Basin Depot. The website was developed in partnership with the Virtual Museum of Canada (VMC) at virtualmuseum.ca.

Over the past decade the Friends of Bonnechere Parks, in partnership with the Ontario Archaeological Society Ottawa Chapter, have hosted a public archaeological program to explore hidden heritage sites along the Little Bonnechere River. Participants have included various local school groups, Bonnechere Provincial Park visitors and archaeological enthusiasts under the supervision of licensed archaeologists. Excavations at Basin Depot, the Lafleur homestead and several locations up-river from Round Lake have resulted in the recovery of what some consider Canada's largest collection of farm depot artifacts, circa 1850 to 1880.

Up until now most of these artifacts have been unavailable for public viewing due to limited exhibition space at the Davenport Cultural Heritage Centre. Now, this online exhibit opens the door to the best of the collection by featuring photographs and cataloguing data for over 160 artifacts. With the click of a mouse, some artifacts can also be viewed in 360 degrees! Artifacts on display include earthenware, ceramics and glass, handmade tools, clay pipes, coins and animal bones, from 5000 years ago to present. Since mid-August, the website has hosted about 550 visitors a month who each spend about six minutes browsing the site, and numbers continue to rise.

The online exhibit opens with a timeline of the Little Bonnechere River illuminated by words, images and audio and video clips. Listen to the voices and stories of Basin Depot settlers such as Hanna McGuey Hyland and Martin Garvey recorded in 1976 by author and historian Rory MacKay. Take a virtual tour deep into the Bonnechere Caves.

Those interested in participating in an archaeological dig can do so virtually by using various online tools to uncover, clean and sort artifacts. To learn more about the recovered items, online archaeologists can then link to the virtual museum and browse for related images, data and stories.



VIRTUAL MUSEUM CANADA



Notes from Bonnechere

Another camping season has come and gone and the summer of 2006 will be memorable for many reasons. This season was certainly the season of the storm. We were battered by a number of significant storms this season that brought down many trees and branches. The worst of which was on the evening of July 17 which left us without power or phone service for almost 3 days. As I arrived at the park that evening and saw the extent of the damage, I was sure that someone must have been injured or worse. The good news was that in spite of all the damage, there were no injuries or significant property damage. It was heart warming to see off duty park staff and campers (including Friend's members) pitch in, without being asked, to help those in need and secure areas of concern.

In spite of challenges presented by a reduction in funding this season, NHE staff lead by Luke Dickerson and supported by the Friends, continued to deliver top notch programming and special events. The most memorable of which was the launch of the Lands of the Spirits website which marked the culmination of years of hard work by all involved. The Friends are to be congratulated for all their hard work, foresight and dedication.

My time as the Acting Superintendent is over as Jim is back from his assignment working on the Ottawa River Heritage Designation. I am certainly grateful for the support the Friend's have given me over the last two years, it made my job much easier.

I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable winter and I look forward to seeing you at the park in the spring.

Brent Frederick

Assistant Park Superintendent

The website also includes a complete teaching unit based on the Land of the Spirits content and activities. Online visitors can also search the entire site by keywords. The site is fully functional in both English and French.

"As we researched the artifacts and documents that had been gathered over the years, we were very impressed by the richness and relevance of the Little Bonnechere River story," says Friends of Bonnechere Parks President Ross Taylor. He added, "Now, thanks to the Virtual Museum of Canada Investment Program and our advisors and partners, we can share this small but vital element of Canadian heritage with the world."

In addition to the Virtual Museum of Canada (VMC), project partners include the Bonnechere Caves, Bonnechere Museum, Canadian Forestry Museum, Friends of Algonquin Park, Friends of Bonnechere Parks, Ontario Archaeological Society Ottawa Chapter, and the Renfrew County Stewardship Council. Work on the Land of the Spirits portal began in August 2005 and wrapped up this past June.

The Virtual Museum of Canada (VMC), an initiative of the Department of Canadian Heritage, was established in partnership with over 1200 Canadian heritage institutions. Virtualmuseum.ca is a unique portal to the countless stories and treasures held in trust by Canada's museums, and lies at the core of the Government of Canada's strategy to nurture and promote Canada's culture online.

To view the VMC collections, visit: www.virtualmuseum.ca/Exhibitions/Spirits/

CARRYING ON, UP THE BONNECHERE

It had been one of the rainiest early September periods in years, but right on cue the weather changed for the better on September 16 when the Ontario Archaeology Society Ottawa Chapter came to the Bonnechere. They had come to join the Friends of Bonnechere Parks for a "Walk Back in Time" along the old Bonnechere Road. For the past ten years the activity on a mid-September weekend has been an archaeological "dig", but in keeping with the weekend theme of a retrospective it was thought that a visit to the sites on which these groups and the public have worked would be beneficial to all.

The day commenced at about 9 am, with a caravan of cars heading from Bonnechere Park's Davenport Centre up Turner's Road. Included in our numbers were quite a few members of the public who had responded to the activity advertisement in the Eganville Leader. A introduction was given at the Algonquin Park - Bonnechere River Park boundary by Jim Fraser, Superintendent of Bonnechere Parks, who outlined the agenda for the day and reminded all participants of the excellent opportunities to learn more about the river and its early inhabitants through the excellent books and booklets produced by the Friends of Bonnechere Parks. It was also pointed out that some of the artifacts from the sites could be observed photographically on the Land of the Spirits website which makes up part of the Virtual Museum of Canada.

At our first stop, the park line, we learned how buildings were recycled from place to place. The gate-keeper's cabin on that site had been part of another building at Basin Depot, and showed signs that it had a previous configuration before that. The cabin now lies within Bonnechere Park at The Depot.

An amusing, but revealing, occurrence was when Jim Fraser stopped the group of cars to discuss Paddy Garvey's farm at Mount Pleasant View, only to find that he had stopped at the wrong place. After seventy years the actual farm, under pine plantation, looked little different than the forest where Jim stopped at first, underlining just how quickly the forest can reclaim an open field. There are many sites along the Bonnechere road and river that could be marked for public reference, and many more that need to be accurately located for research purposes, and unwittingly Jim had made this all the more obvious.

The most studied of sites by the OAS and FBP groups is Basin Depot. Here, archaeologist Tom Ballantine reviewed the many occasions when the public had joined in the excavations. Many newer members of the OAS, and the public, had heard about our work on "the house" and "the big building outlined by toadflax" and "Rory's Well", but Tom's tour provided them with a spatial context. Rory MacKay led short tours to a foundation outline which has not yet been investigated, on the west side of the large clearing at Basin Depot. It had been "discovered" on an aerial photograph, and is confirmed on the ground by a foundation mound. More opportunity.

It was at an unhurried lunch, sitting on the grass on the newer lumber camp section of Basin Depot, south of the oldest standing building in Algonquin Park, that a participant was overheard to have said something along the lines of "It really makes the history live when you can hear the stories, know what artifacts were found, and you are actually standing on the landscape."

Following lunch, a reduced number of participants travelled the road northwest to above the hydro line to the farm clearing of the McIntyre family, and the earlier location of the lumber camp buildings known as The Village. This clearing has not been planted in pine, and thus provides a more natural image of the way the open fields become reclaimed by the forest. Here avocational research archaeologist Rory MacKay explained the history of the site and Jim Fraser outlined the methods that were used on this site to attempt to determine predictability of finding artifacts and features within certain distances of old foundations. While this may sound esoteric, such a model would have real value in protecting archaeological resources in sections of Algonquin Park that are logged, such as the Little Bonnechere watershed. One site does not a model make, but a start has been made, thanks in part to the OAS and Friends volunteers who assisted the professional team with work on the site.

Rory MacKay used the proximity of this site to explain some of the work he had done during the past five years on the Depot Farm of John Egan, another ten kilometres away by logging roads which were no doubt blocked by trees (as was the pathway to the McGuey Farm, which was not visited on this trip). Going back to his naturalist roots, Rory also pointed out the Northern Harrier flying over the beaver hay in the river, the rut pit in the clearing where a moose in rut had pawed the ground and scent marked, and the bones of a deer leg that had been left by a wolf pack. It was this latter find, and the slight smell of decaying flesh, that prompted Rory – a fan of Sydney James and the "Carry On" movies – to suggest that a film about this section of the trip could be entitled "Carrion Up the Bonnechere".

It was a scenic drive back down the road into Bonnechere River Park and the LaFleur Sites. Here Jim Fraser gave a tour of the inside of the park building which had once been the home of the Lafleur family. At the LaFleur Woodland Site a few artifacts were found that suggested a First Nations presence, at a location which Jim Fraser had thought looked good as a place to pull up large canoes for a park program. It is likely he had picked a spot that had been good for that purpose for a long time. The LaFleur farm site comprises the house of about 1902 construction, a milkhouse or dairy, a drive shed, and the foundation evidence of a number of barns and other outbuildings. This site has been used frequently for public archaeology opportunities for members of the public and for school groups.

As the shadows of the trees touched with yellow and orange lengthened, it became time for a trip back to the staff house at Bonnechere Park or to one's campsite to freshen up for the evening dinner and presentation at the Davenport Centre Heritage Hall. There Marian Clarke was honoured with the FBP Directors' Award, for her contributions to the Park and to its public archaeology activities. Marian joins fellow OAS members Dave Croft, Tom Ballantine, and Rory MacKay as recipients of this honour, underlining the close ties that have developed between the Friends of Bonnechere Parks and the Ottawa Chapter of the OAS.



As always, the dinner was delicious, the opportunity to visit with old and new friends was facilitated, and the magic of the Bonnechere Archaeology weekend was present. After dinner Ziggy Biernaskie, of the hamlet of Bonnechere, showed some 8 mm film that he had acquired from relatives. Along with a view of logging activities along the Bonnechere in the 1950s, and some images of Barry's Bay before the hydro came, he also showed a tantalizing minute or so of film taken at Basin Depot. You can bet there will be an attempt to get some still photos from that!

To wrap up the weekend, on Sunday, September 17, members of the Ottawa Chapter of the OAS and the FBP attended a round table to reflect on the work that had been accomplished over the past ten years, to learn how each group views its ability to meet the opportunity provided by the Park to continue to do archaeology with public involvement, to explore possible ways of getting funding to carry on with the good work that has been begun, and to begin to look to future possibilities. The conversations were constructively candid, and collegial as always. It left a warm feeling as we all made our way back to our regular lives, away but for a time from the gentle flow of the Little Bonnechere River. No doubt, we will be back.

Contributed by Rory MacKay



Alasdair Fraser Donates a Scenic Print

Anyone who has attended an FBP event will recognize Alasdair Fraser's smiling face. In his understated manner he has quietly recorded numerous archaeological digs, spirits nights, presentations and annual meetings on print and video. He also spends numerous hours fulfilling his love of nature photography in and around the Park, and has recorded many a sunrise and sunset from the beach on Round Lake.

Last fall, Alasdair donated to the Park a framed print of a glorious sunrise over Round Lake. In the photo above, FBP Director Jane Duff accepts the piece of art. Thank you Alasdair!

Volunteering In Renfrew County

Volunteers and volunteer agencies in Renfrew County now have a new tool designed to match the needs of community organizations and service clubs with the people who want to help them achieve their goals through volunteering. In the coming months, the FBP will be posting specific tasks and jobs we would like to see supported by volunteers. If you are interested in getting more involved with our team, keep checking the website to browse the postings. Volunteering is a great way to meet new people and give back to your community.
www.volunteeringinrenfrewcounty.org

RC COMMUNITY FUTURES FUNDS INTERPRETIVE TRAIL AND DISPLAY PANELS

The Lafleur Homestead Re-Interpreted

The following text has been incorporated into a set of three photographic display panels that will be mounted along the new interpretive trail being developed at the Lafleur homestead. The FBP thank the Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation for financially supporting this project.

THE TOTE ROAD

The Bonnechere Road was a rough, narrow route originating at Castleford (near Renfrew) on the Ottawa River then travelling northwest through pine woods, along the shoreline of Golden Lake, and on to Round Lake. From there it followed the Little Bonnechere River beyond Currier's Lake and through Basin Depot to the headwaters of the Bonnechere and on to Radiant Lake. In winter, men would ice the main road and its connecting links with a horse-drawn water tanker, being careful to sand the steeper hills.

Throughout the 1870s the road experienced heavy traffic of men, horses, oxen and lumber to meet a growing demand for goods and services. For example, by the early 1900s the McLachlin Brothers, one of several local lumber companies, employed more than 1000 men requiring literally tons of provisions to sustain them through each logging season.

It was not surprising then that pioneering entrepreneurs such as Francis Currier established stopping places to provide lodging to the many travellers along this otherwise remote route. Currier and his family were the only permanent residents of Burns Township for many years.

"There is a very fair traveled road leading through the Township along the margin of the Bonnechere used by lumbermen in transporting supplies into the interior. There is one settler (Francis Currier) living in the Township on lot 8 con 11 who keeps a hotel or stopping place and who has a very good house and outbuildings. There is an immense amount of travel along this road during winter months"

~ Thomas O. Bolger, PLS, 1874 Survey of Burns Township

FARMING ALONG THE LITTLE BONNECHERE

For the Little Bonnechere pioneers the first step towards survival was clearing trees and rocks to ready the land for domestic crops. In the process, nothing was wasted. Logs were used to build homes and outbuildings; smaller limbs were put into rail fences to hold livestock. The hardwood stumps and waste wood were converted to potash. When water was leached through these ashes the by-product was lye, an essential ingredient in soap-making.



Young and old, every family member was expected to work the land, and in the days before oxen were acquired it was not unusual to see women pulling ploughs. For children the seemingly endless task was to 'pick rock'. Today there is still plenty of evidence of the stone piles and fences that marked the original farm properties.

By 1888 Charles and Martha Lafleur, together with their three children, assumed the farm on Currier's Lake moving here from nearby Lafleur Lake. Like the Currier family before them the Lafleur's operated a typical pioneer farm complete with a house and summer kitchen, a barn and two stables.

Architectural studies indicate that the present house is not that built by the Curriers circa 1870. Built in about 1910, it is one of few farm buildings along the Bonnechere Road from Eganville to the headwaters that retains its original appearance and character.

LAFLEUR HOMESTEAD

Main House

Charles Lafleur constructed this house in about 1910. Within these solid square-timber walls he and his wife Martha raised three children: Bella, Josephine and William. Here, as at many of the homes along the Bonnechere Road, travelers were always welcome to warm up by the original Forest Beauty stove. Once inside, the scent of Bella's fresh baking was enough to convince most visitors to sit in to the dinner table.

Milk House

"I get up at three-thirty, just breaking daylight. I could see the cow's legs. I wouldn't be able to tell what cow it was until I got closer to her. I'd milk the cows and separate it and feed the calves and everything and put the potatoes on before I separated, cause I had to have breakfast ready for six o'clock. And by the time I got done outside, then the potatoes would be cooked. I'd just have to set the table, and shout at them to get up."

~ Hannah McGuey Hyland

Piggery

"Oh, we had cows and some pigs, practically everything you know, on a farm... We used to have around thirty head of cattle you know, we wintered that many. Whatever cattle they had to sell in the fall, they'd sell them on the hoof. They used to take the cattle to the shanties... and draw loose hay from around Mink Lake."

~ Hannah McGuey Hyland

Drive Shed

"My dad had a stopping place. A lot of the time he would have maybe fifteen, twenty-five team of horses there. He had a great big long shed, and put the horses there... And you put horses in a shed where there was paper on there and boards on so the wind would be blocked, you know? Those horses would be nice and warm in the morning."

~ Henry McGuey

Outhouse

In addition to the obvious, the outhouse — or privy — was often the disposal site for unwanted and supposedly contaminated household items, especially following devastating bouts of diphtheria and tuberculosis. Though the loss of a family's china in this manner would have come at a tremendous cost both financially and personally, generations later archaeologists gain immeasurable knowledge through the recovery of these once-lost treasures.

Root Cellar

The root cellar was known as Mother Nature's refrigerator. To store their food the ever-resourceful pioneers took advantage of the earth's insulation by building log cellars partially submerged in the ground. They then packed in straw and if they were lucky, ice blocks cut from the frozen lake. Often, the ice would last well into the summer.

TIME CHANGES ALL

Recently the FBP were approached by Fred Gossard of Florida. As Fred tells it, circa 1958 his father travelled to Turner's Camp to hunt along the Little Bonnechere River. Fortunately for us, some of his best shots were taken with a camera. In going through some old family photographs, Fred came across several of the Lafleur homestead. The image below illustrates various buildings, fences, wood pile, hydro or telephone pole, and an automobile. What a find for our researchers and archaeologists!



RENFREW COUNTY
Community Futures Development Corporation
Société d'aide au développement des collectivités





Saying Goodbye to Evelyn Davenport

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of a long-time and dedicated supporter of Bonnechere Provincial Park.

At the end of January, Evelyn Davenport passed away in Owen Sound at the age of 95. For many years Evelyn and her late husband Harold set up camp on site 88 and excelled as Park hosts.

"Their hard work, easy-going manner and the warm welcome they extended to staff, returning campers and first-time visitors are still talked about by those who had the privilege of meeting them," says Assistant Park Superintendent Brent Frederick.

"I know many made a point of coming here every summer just to have a visit with Evelyn and Harold."

Brent adds "Every time I pass campsite 88 I still expect to get flagged down by Harold reporting on a troublesome campsite, asking if he could borrow a tool to make a repair for a stranded camper, or offering a cool pop or hot cup of coffee."

It is fitting that the main public gathering place at the Park is named in honour of Evelyn and Harold: The Davenport Cultural Heritage Centre.

Thank You Oleshia

FBP Director Oleshia Van Dyke has resigned from the Board as she takes on increased career-related commitments. Thank you for all hard work with the FBP and at the Park over the past six years!

OUT OF THE ARCHIVES

A Blade from the Glade The History and Archaeology of a Broad Axe

Collection: Egan Farm

Object: Axe

Material: Iron

Period: Early 19th Century - Mid 19th Century

Date: 1830 to 1855



Broad-axes of this type were used in the days of squared timber. The date of creation would be pre-1855, when Bytown became the city of Ottawa. The reasoning for this is that the stamped place of manufacture on the front part of the poll of the axe shows __TOW__, consistent with other axes stamped BYTOWN. The other letters may have not impressed fully into the iron, or may have eroded over time.

Axes of this type were used for making large pine logs square. This type of axe pre-dates the North American squared timber trade, but it is from the latter period that is best known in Canada. The axe was used as the equivalent of a large chisel, with only one side of the blade having a bevel. The handle was short and bent outward so as to provide a space, between the plane of the axe blade and the side of the log, in which one's fingers could be placed to grip the handle. The axe would be used by a person standing beside a large pine log from which much of the bark and wood had been removed down to a chalk line delineating one side of the intended square cross-section. The blade was raised, and then lowered with gravitational and additional force to remove wood down to the chalk line. A curl of wood chips was maintained so as to keep the squared side of the log vertical and so extra effort was not needed to slow down the axe at the bottom of its swing.



This particular axe appears to be stamped with the manufacturer's name Blasdell. Although no additional letters can be seen, other Blasdell broad-axes from Bytown were stamped TMBIasdell. It is assumed that would be the case with this axe. The Blasdell family operated an axe factory in Bytown and Ottawa, with either location stamp appearing on their axes depending on time of manufacture. Other manufacturers of axes were found elsewhere, including Hull, St. Catherines, Pembroke, and Renfrew.

This axe was found in 2005 at the remains of the Egan farm on the Bonnechere River in Algonquin Park dating from about 1860. Where once there was an open field with buildings there is now a second growth forest with only stone piles and foundation mounds indicating that it was once occupied.

It is illegal to collect artifacts in a provincial park unless you have permission and a licence. This axe was collected by Rory MacKay, a licenced research archaeologist who has been studying the Little Bonnechere for almost thirty years, first as a historian and lately as an archaeologist. It was turned over to the staff of the Algonquin Park Visitor Centre, as required by the agreement of permission to conduct archaeology in the park, who have agreed that it be stored with other artifacts from the Bonnechere River, at Bonnechere Provincial Park.

Written by Rory MacKay; cataloguing data by Tom Ballantine.

To view other artifacts in our collection visit:

www.virtualmuseum.ca/Exhibitions/Spirits/English/Museum/index.html

McIntyre's Clearing: Farm or Village?

Everyone loves a good mystery and McIntyre's Clearing certainly provides one. In the 1870s several lumber companies established a cluster of operations buildings in this area. Almost a century later, while researching *Spirits of the Little Bonnechere*, author Rory MacKay recorded memories of what came to be known as 'the Village' but none of the surviving settlement children could remember its exact location.

The 1889 survey indicates that William McIntyre's family had cleared ten acres, cut the marsh grasses (beaver hay) for their cattle and sheep and ran a successful stopping place on this site. In 1892 when the black diphtheria epidemic struck the McIntyre family, uncle Dennis McGuey made a daily 10-km journey upriver to care for the family and do the chores.

Though the log house and out buildings are long gone, ruins of the root cellar still exist while evidence of the stables is little more than a collection of uniform square mounds scattered across the clearing. It may be that evidence of the long lost village is buried here as well or is it elsewhere along the Little Bonnechere? Either way it's a mystery still waiting to be solved. So while you stand on the shores of the McIntyre clearing looking across the tree lined ridges of the Little Bonnechere River valley ask yourself this question: Am I looking *for* the Village or am I looking *from* the Village?

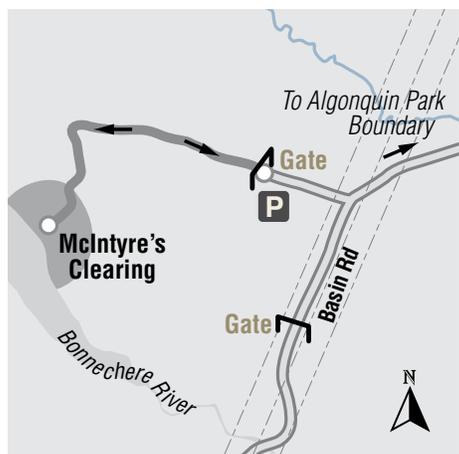
Recalling the Former Forest

The closer one gets to the headwaters of the Bonnechere the harder it is to believe that this modest creek transported the giant pines of the past. These white and red pines, which were often more than 300 years old, up to 40 m tall and 120 cm in diameter, had to have survived repeated ground fires but likely got their start following a conflagration hundreds of years earlier.

Try to identify the pine trees amidst the cedar, spruce and hardwoods springing up around the clearing. White pine has five long, soft needles in a bundle, while red pine needles are stiffer, stouter and come two to the bundle. White pine has grayish barks, while older red pine trees develop the characteristic reddish bark.

Since loggers harvested the biggest and best trees for decades, you will note that older trees are rare here so it's good to know that the Little Bonnechere River now flows through protected parklands designed to ensure that some of the oldest pine specimens survive for future generations.

This article is an excerpt from Walks of the Little Bonnechere by Rory MacKay and Mark Stabb.



Bon Voyage Merrill

We bid farewell to our good friend Merrill Burchart who passed away in early June. A very quiet man of many creative talents, Merrill crafted several original works that he donated to the Park including nature paintings, and small reproductions of the Basin Depot cabin and the Cockburn pointer boat.

Merrill's crowning moment at the Park was in May 2002 when, accompanied by several family members, he paddled ashore on Round Lake in a Cockburn pointer boat he had built to scale over the previous winter. Today, this replica vessel sits in a prominent location under the roof of the Davenport Centre.

At that celebration Merrill beamed with pride: "It was beautiful. It's a lot of history; it's pretty fantastic." Based on what we have learned about Merrill's heritage and accomplishments, that aptly sums up his life as well.

After Merrill's death, the FBP were fortunate to acquire his painting easel. We will treasure this simple tool upon which he create many a folk-art masterpiece.

75 YEARS AGO

Mr. Mark McNamara who, as a park ranger was stationed at Round Lake during the summer months, was home to Eganville for Tuesday and Wednesday. He told The Leader the influx of tourists to that territory was remarkable, and that almost three hundred permits for cars were issued. Land for camp sites on the south side of Round Lake is selling at \$100 an acre.

Reprinted from The Eganville Leader, October 2, 1931 Edition.

Marian Clark: 2006 FBP Directors Award Recipient

On September 16, 2006 Marian Clark received the FBP Board of Directors Award at a ceremony held in the Davenport Centre of Bonnechere Provincial Park. Present at this occasion were Park campers and visitors, OAS Ottawa Chapter members and Park staff. Jim Fraser, Park Superintendent, made the presentation and included his appreciation. The FBP Board of Directors Award was inspired by an intriguing small plate recovered by Peggi Armstrong at Basin Depot a decade ago. The award of this beautiful modern plate, with impression of the oldest building in Algonquin Park, is a memorial to Peggi and Helen Armstrong.

Marian Clark joined the OAS Ottawa Chapter in 1982. She immediately volunteered as secretary-treasurer and remained on the executive committee for 14 years serving in all positions including president. She took a break for several years before returning for another three. Marian has energetically prepared fundamental agenda for many Chapter meetings and archaeological expeditions. She helped arrange programs of cultural interest such as Archaeology Day at Bonnechere Provincial Park, and helped facilitate many of the projects that comprise the Chapter's ongoing public archaeology program.

The initiative for the public archaeology program of the Ottawa Chapter was hatched when J.V. Wright discussed the need for more public awareness in archaeological research and dissemination of information to a broader audience. The Chapter set up a committee and began the formation of a long-term plan to share our knowledge across Eastern Ontario. Marian always encouraged conservation and recreation as part of her support for research in any venture. In particular, the launching of cooperative efforts with the FBP motivated Marian to assist where possible with the many facets of programming and research that the FBP embraced. This included conducting field research, sharing public information, and publishing *Discover The Spirits of the Little Bonnechere* youth activity book, Rory's *Spirits of the Little Bonnechere* and most recently the *Land of the Spirits* virtual exhibit.

For ten years the FBP have invited the OAS Ottawa Chapter to present an annual demonstration where Park visitors are exposed to archaeological training while helping with investigations at Basin Depot and Lafleur farm, two Euro-Canadian lumbering and farming sites on the Little Bonnechere River. Marian was profoundly involved in the logistics of entertaining visitors and sometimes providing culinary expertise, which supported these successful heritage experiences for the public.

This cooperative effort provided Marian with a vehicle to share her understanding of practical ceramic technology. Primary methodology of ancient pottery manufacture was demonstrated and then practiced by young visitors. Over and over again, this experience has challenged young minds to learn science and history, and support conservation of our cultural heritage.

Marian also helped increase local cultural activity by acting as a professional field technician on contracts with archaeologists at Basin Depot, Lafleur Homestead, the Beach Site and MacIntyre Site. In doing so, Marian has made a generous contribution to the preservation and promotion of Ottawa Valley Aboriginal and Euro-Canadian history.

Marian Clark is a team player and motivated by like-minded friends and professional colleagues. She is a worthy recipient and richly deserves this award. Her career has taken her in a different direction now, but her interest and experience in our heritage programs is sure to keep her coming back!

Contributed by Dave Croft, OAS Ottawa Chapter member



On The Banks of The Bonnechere

Barry Goldie

*On the banks of the Bonnechere
There's spruce and pine and oak trees there
On the banks of the Bonnechere
Oh the lumbermen come each fall
There's a call in the breeze through the white pine trees
Long the banks of the Bonnechere*

Chorus:

*And if you head north out of Killaloe
With your axe and your saw and your spike soled shoes
You can ride back down on the logs in the spring
Long the banks of the Bonnechere*

*In the runoff and melt of spring
There's a hundred creeks that run so deep
To the banks of the Bonnechere
And if you've got your logs piled right
In the flood and flow down the creek they'll go
To the banks of the Bonnechere*

*Timber-trained, rugged engineers
With an axe and horse they can change the course*

*Of the banks of the Bonnechere
Made a passage at Crooked Falls
How the timber flies, down the big log slide
To the banks of the Bonnechere*

*They float and they bob along
And the logs go down into Gold Lake town
On the banks of the Bonnechere
Where the white waters rush and roll
Past a white pine stand on Algonquin land
On the banks of the Bonnechere*

*To the fifth chute at Eganville
And there'll be four more to the Renfrew shore
On the banks of the Bonnechere
Many trees made their way downstream
And I still think then of the lumbermen
On the banks of the Bonnechere*

The above song is an original composition written for Upstream to Basin Depot presented this fall by Stone Fence Theatre. Below, actor Dave Bassett belts out another original tune entitled Pork, Beans and Bread.

BRAVO Stone Fence Theatre!!!

