

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF BONNECHERE PARKS

FALL 1995

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Public Relations

Betty Biesenthal
613-732-4321

Fundraising and Grants

Laurie Fraser
613-735-2283

Cultural Resource Centre and Related Projects

Jim Fraser
613-735-2283

Book Store and Staffing

Vicki Bradley
613-735-6627

Park Superintendent

Jim Fraser



If I were to pick a theme for this edition it would have to be NEW. As summer turns to fall and another busy season wraps up, a new year of behind-the-scenes planning and activities is just beginning for the Friends of Bonnechere Parks.

At our recent AGM we elected two new members to the Board of Directors and at the first meeting of our new year we chose a new slate of officers. As president, I replace Jane Duff, who since 1993 has very admirably lead this fledgling group of volunteers through its first two years of organization. Bonnechere Park is a place that is very near and dear to Jane's heart and her work with the Friends is testament to her support for the Park and its people. While Jane has stepped down as President, it is not so that she can sit back and put her feet up! Instead, she will be administering our finances. At this time, I would also like to thank out-going director Carole Bradley, whose efforts over the past two years have proven most valuable to the successful establishment of our group.

Below we've reprinted the key points of Jane's address at the AGM. We are all proud of what we have achieved over the past year and are excited about the new ventures these efforts have lead us to think think about and act upon. It goes without saying that the support we receive from all Friends, is invaluable to the success of our agenda. We welcome your input and encourage you to extend your support throughout the coming year.

Betty Biesenthal

This past year, although not marked by large events like the opening of our wetlands viewing platform in 1994, was indeed busy. Most notably, we have greatly expanded our inventory in the bookshop and will continue to do so in the future.

We were pleased to be co-sponsors of the archaeological conference held here last fall and the ongoing work of these enthusiastic people. We have also provided financial support for various Visitors' Services programs including a session on birds with Jim Ferguson and a presentation on wildflowers by Mike Runtz, to list but two.

Our two Environment Youth Corps students, Sean Norris and Carrie Recoskie, have continued the ongoing work on the interpretive trail guide, as well as presenting evening Visitors' Services programs and children's programs throughout the summer.

Our newest and biggest venture to date, which will be long term, is to help in the development of a Cultural Resource Centre at Bonnechere Provincial Park. Here visitors will be able to participate in educational and interpretive programs surrounded by artifacts, displays and photographs illustrating the rich culture and heritage of the Parks and the local areas.

It is at this point that I would like to present Mr. Rory McKay with a cheque from the Friends towards the development of the Cultural Resource Centre. Rory is here today in period costume demonstrating pioneer blacksmithing techniques. On a more personal note, I would like to present Rory with a small donation to assist in his ongoing research and writing of the book he is currently working on — *Spirits of the Little Bonnechere*. We look forward to seeing it published in the near future.

And finally, to Park Superintendent Jim Fraser I present a small donation towards the purchase of a new printer for the Park's computer. We will be able to use it to print our trail guide, newsletters, etc., and the park staff will have many uses for it as well, I'm sure.

In closing, I thank the other members of the Board for all their hard work over the past year, and you, our members, for your support and interest in making the Bonnechere Parks programs and activities among the best.

Presented by out-going president Jane Duff, at the Second Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Bonnechere Park, August 14, 1995, Bonnechere Provincial Park.

The Bonnechere Cultural Resource Centre

Jim Fraser, Park Superintendent

The Friends of Bonnechere Parks have chosen to support two projects which are especially relevant to the local community and the preservation of its past.

The first is the ongoing funding of the cultural research begun conducted by author/historian Rory Mackay which will result in the publication of a book tentatively titled *Spirits of the Little Bonnechere*. This work will document the stories of the Basin Depot farm families who settled along the Bonnechere River from Round Lake to the headwaters at MaKaskill Lake — a must read for those interested in the Bonnechere Cultural Resources Project.

The second of these two key efforts is the Bonnechere Cultural Resource Project, bringing together on a volunteer basis some of the leading cultural resource people in Ontario. Long term plans include the documentation and site inventory of all cultural sites along the river, compilation of a database of all pertinent publications, and the development of educational programming. Key to the project is the establishment of a Cultural Resource Centre at Bonnechere Provincial Park. This building will be a multi-use facility incorporating space for evening programs, research facilities, display areas, administration/map area, the Friends headquarters, and storage. On-site lab facilities will allow researchers to prepare and identify artifacts while giving the public an opportunity to view the ongoing research activities. Work on the Centre is now in the planning phase, with the hope of having visual concepts available for review by the spring of 1996.

Plenty of Fun at Bonnechere!

Diane Dwyer, Visitors' Services Co-ordinator

As in past, this summer's Natural Heritage Education Programs at Bonnechere Provincial Park were once again a big hit. We had an extremely busy season and with some great help we pulled it off admirably and with fun for all!

We kicked off the season on the May long weekend and wrapped up the summer at Labour Day. Throughout this period we delivered a wide variety of events — everything from a special kids program devoted to birds, to a concert in the park starring country music artist Gail Gavin. Our NHE staff presented a new program called Kids Camp — a series designed to help children discover both the cultural and natural resources available to Bonnechere Park visitors. And our highly successful evening programs included two well attended Spirits Nights. For those interested in the past, we were pleased to have the Ontario Archaeological Society, Ottawa Chapter, present an entire day of activities featuring local archaeology.

We also welcomed back several familiar and entertaining faces. Barney McCaffery came with a colourful and entertaining musical history lesson. Manson Fleguel returned for another day of bird watching on the Bonnechere, and of course, George and Peggy Tessier helped out by leading a few campfire sing-songs. To top it off, we had a special visit from Ms. Cathy MacPherson, the head of the provincial NHE. Cathy attended two of our programs and was very pleased with our efforts. We greatly appreciate her taking the time to visit our relatively modest park and welcome her back anytime.

This was also the first summer for two activities which we hope will become annual events. The first was our Take a Hike, Eh! weekend which consisted of four organized hikes over two days. All fund raised by the hikers went towards the Cultural Resource Centre project. The second event was the Bonnechere Tall Tales Night. The winning storyteller for the evening was camper Jason Van Dyke who amazed the audience with his tall tale of *Louis the Logger*. We hope to continue the fun next year.

So it was a busy summer and a lot of fun was had by all. I would like to thank the Friends for their support and assistance with our programming, as well as the NHE staff: Heather, Cecilia, Carrie and Sean, who all did an excellent job. We couldn't have done it without you!

Organizing The Volunteer Efforts

As with any group of people working towards a common goal, The Friends of Bonnechere Parks understands the importance of making the most of the time and energy its volunteers are able to dedicate. To this end, we have recently implemented a committee system which reflects both the agenda of this group, and the structure we had originally set forth.

The first step was to revisit the Objects of the Organization which we had established in our constitution:

1. to encourage and support the Crown's mandate and programs for interpretive, educational, scientific, historical, protection and preservation purposes related to the natural and historic resources of Bonnechere, Bonnechere River and Foy Provincial Parks;
2. to function as a charitable, non-profit corporation for the purpose of fundraising in accordance with Provincial and Federal Statutes;
3. to undertake specific projects and initiatives which may be agreed to by the association and the government agency from time to time;
4. to invest income from sales, membership fees, donations, bequests and grants in facilities, activities or events that support the Parks' interpretive themes.

The next step was to establish specific goals for the upcoming season:

1. to provide good programming to extend the park season and increase park use;
2. to focus fundraising on the Cultural Resource Centre and various co-operative projects with Friends of Algonquin Park;
3. to publish a park history and trail guides.

As a result we have established four committees with the understanding that these groups will each set forth realistic goals and objectives, which combined will comprise the Working Strategy for Friends of Bonnechere Parks, 1995-1996. These goals and objectives will be presented by the committee chairs at our November meeting, and a summary of same will be published in our next newsletter. Once again, if you have a particular interest in this agenda, please contact any of the committee chairs for more information.

Making the Most of Marshall



what you like about who the favourite camper or the st popular park employee might be on the Bonnechere, Marshall the Turtle is fast becoming the hit of the Parks.

He started out as a live mascot who joined in at some of our special events, then this past summer we turned him into a caricature and applied his image to kids t-shirts — they sold like hot cakes! Then, with the help of numerous young campers, we turned Marshall's image into works of art. Our Marshall the Turtle Colouring Contest met with overwhelming success with over 40 entries from children of all ages.

One can only wonder about what's next for this travelling turtle. Yet plans are well underway! For the summer of '96 we will publish a Marshall the Turtle Colouring and Activity Booklet designed to promote happy camping, protection of our environment and safe vacation travel.

As well, until August 6, 1996, we will be accepting entries in our **Marshall the Wood Turtle's Excellent Travel Adventure Contest**. Just send us a photograph of yourself wearing an official Marshall t-shirt at your favourite and/or most exotic travel destination (besides Bonnechere Park, of course) along with a short writeup about why this place is special to you. All photos will be on display at the Davenport Centre during the upcoming summer, and at next year's AGM the Board of Directors will vote on Marshall's most unique travel destination.

Contest Rules

- restricted to purchasers of an authentic Marshall the Wood Turtle t-shirt
- send a 3" x 5" non-returnable photo and a short descriptive paragraph to:
Friends of Bonnechere Parks, Marshall the Wood Turtles Excellent Travel Adventure Contest, Box 220, Pembroke, ON K8A 6X4

Contest Prizes

- **Grand Prize:** 2 nights free camping at Bonnechere Provincial Park, an authentic Park Ranger sun hat, an official Take-a-Hike walking stick and a Friends of Bonnechere Parks sweatshirt
- **Second Prize:** a Friends of Bonnechere Parks sweatshirt and lapel pin



Order your special
Marshall t-shirt today!
(before they're all snapped up!)

Poly-cotton. Sizes: S, M, L.
Colours: teal, purple, yellow, blue, green.

15⁰⁰ taxes inc.

To order please add \$4.00 for shipping. Send cheque or money order only. Make cheques payable to Friends of Bonnechere Park, Box 220, Pembroke, ON K8A 6X4. Please allow 3 to 4 weeks for delivery. Sorry, we cannot guarantee colour choice.

Marshall the Turtle Colouring Contest Winners

Six years and under:

Nadya Van Dyke, Kemptville
Lisa Monica Kozycz, Rexdale
Thomas Russell, Petawawa

Seven to Ten years:

Melissa Render, Renfrew
Jeremy Van Dyke, Kemptville
Lisa Dicks, Merrickville

Eleven years and over:

Jessica Neumaker, Braeside
Jason Van Dyke, Kemptville
Anna Rutkowska, Mississauga

Thank you to all who took part!

Making Plans?

It's never too early to plan for next summer. Here's some of what we'll be up to — we look forward to seeing you!

July 6, 7

Spirits of the Little Bonnechere River

July 13, 14

Celebrate Parks Day
Take a Hike, Eh!

July 20, 21

Tall Tales

July 27, 28

Ottawa Valley Fiddlers

August 3, 4

Spirits of the Lake

August 9, 10

Friends Weekend
Friday: Nature's Visitors
Saturday: Natural Heritage activities including guided canoe hikes, Friends AGM, habitat improvement demos, Songs of Nature campfire

August 17, 18

Archaeology of the Ottawa Valley

August 24, 25

Come Howl at Bonnechere Wolf Howl

Our ever popular Kids Camp will be back featuring cultural and natural heritage programs on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings.