

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF BONNECHERE PARKS

SPRING 1999

Board of Directors

Betty Biesenthal
Vicki Bradley
Jane Duff
Kerri Carroll
Tom Carroll
Laurie Fraser
Sean Norris
Ross Taylor

Slate of Officers

President: Betty Biesenthal
Treasurer: Jane Duff
Secretary: Laurie Fraser

Committee Chairs

Community Fund Raising
Tom Carroll

Cultural Resource Centre
Jim Fraser

Events
Laurie Fraser

Membership
Ross Taylor

Grants and Publicity
Betty Biesenthal

Park Superintendent
Jim Fraser
613-757-2103

Friends of Bonnechere Parks
Box 220, Pembroke ON
K8A 6X4

Email to Editor: dhouse@renc.igs.net



At a recent meeting of the Eastern Ontario Friends Association, Canadian journalist, broadcaster and host of the highly acclaimed public television series, Great Canadian Parks, Peter Truman quoted an anonymous author: "A day spent in the wilderness is never deducted from the rest of our lives." Perhaps this is what keeps the volunteers of the Friends of Bonnechere Parks so dedicated. Each of us have a strong belief in the re-creational value of time spent in the wilderness, and an inherent desire to preserve our natural and cultural heritage riches for those who come after us.

Since sharing these resources is also a key part of our mandate, over the winter the Friends have been busy developing two unique and highly relevant projects. The first is to host a provincial conference bringing together stakeholders towards achieving a better understanding of the economic benefits of cultural heritage tourism. The second is to partner with our neighbours at Friends of Algonquin and three private sector operators to create a set of travel packages focusing on the cultural heritage of the Ottawa Valley.

Both of these projects promise to open new worlds for Bonnechere Park, and to expand the ripple on the pond which is the ever-growing circle created by the Friends of Bonnechere Parks.

Betty Biesenthal, Editor

Developing Cultural Heritage Tourism

A 1997 Canadian Tourism Commission discussion paper stressed: "On the eve of the 21st century the development of new experiences represents one of the main tasks facing Canada's tourism industry. Culture and heritage tourism constitutes one key priority area for new product development."

To explore this fast-evolving industry trend, the Friends of Bonnechere and the Ottawa Valley Tourist Association, with partial funding from the Rural Job Strategy Fund and in cooperation with several supporting partners, will host a provincial conference designed to encourage the public and private-sector industry stakeholders to plan, prepare and benefit from increased cultural heritage tourism in the new millennium.

Cultural Heritage Tourism in Ontario — Partnering for New Business Opportunities will be hosted in Pembroke, Ontario, from October 18 to 21, 1999. The Conference will feature presentations, panels discussions and workshops by managers, operators and educators on the leading edge of cultural heritage tourism development, partnerships, marketing and planning.

According to Jonathon Harris, Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism, "The lack of suitable tourism products that can attract and/or extend the stay of tourists is a deficiency that has been identified of the Ontario Government's Tourism Action Plan. This cultural heritage resources initiative will ultimately address this problem by facilitating tourism product development at a modest cost primarily in the province's rural areas."

The Conference will be of particular interest to tourism operators and managers, historical societies and museums, Friends organizations, Ontario Parks, Parks Canada managers, and government planners and representatives.

The Friends of Bonnechere Parks and the Ottawa Valley Tourist Association gratefully acknowledge the following supporting agencies towards our Conference initiative.



For additional information or to register for the Conference, check out our website: www.bonnecherepark.on.ca. Take advantage of early registration rates up to June 30, 1999.

Who Were Those Folks and What Were They Doing at Bonnechere Park?

Jim Fraser, Park Superintendent

Researching the Bonnechere's natural and cultural heritage, hosting interpretive programs, and understanding the scope of Park resources requires a great deal of time and effort by Park staff, Friends and volunteers. The following is a synopsis of activities from the 1998 season:

Art-in-the-Park Bonnechere Park's artist-in-residence Herschel Payne conducted painting workshops attended by over 100 visitors during July and August.

Cultural Resource Research Project Sponsored by Human Resources Development Canada Summer Youth Programs and supported by our federal Member of Parliament **Hec Clouthier**, graduate student **Kristjan Ahronson** conducted an extensive interview of respected avocational archaeologist **Dave Croft**. The interview further documented archaeological research activities in Renfrew County. Kristjan also utilized **Rory MacKay**'s extensive documentation of the Little Bonnechere River to trace the route the legendary Paddy Garvey followed from Sligo, Ireland, to the banks of the Little Bonnechere.

Archaeological Experience '98 Once again, the **Ontario Archaeological Society-Ottawa Chapter** hosted two of our most popular interpretive programs: Archaeology — Kids' Style and the Dig 'n Pig in September.

This summer's kids program was filmed by T-Can Communications for release on TV Ontario's Canadian Travel Show featuring the Ottawa Valley. Join us this summer for a viewing and watch **Tom Ballantine** explain the mysteries of archaeology and witness **Ishtar** brewing Rock Soup.

Our archaeological dig attracted almost 200 enthusiastic participants to Basin Depot to experience the exploration of an historic site first-hand. Tom is currently hard at work evaluating the myriad

artifacts recovered over these three days so that we can all learn more about the Basin Depot puzzle.

Wolf Howl '98 Professional Naturalist **Michael Runtz** provided heart-stopping drama at Bonnechere one evening last August. First he presented the film "Wild by Nature" which showed young wolves howling in their natural habitat. He then launched his new book; *The Howls of August*, to an enthusiastic audience. Finally came the highlight of this memorable evening. After sunset over 300 people travelled to the boundaries of Algonquin and Bonnechere River Provincial Parks where several wolves responded to Mike's calls and gave us the haunting sounds of the wild in return. This special evening was truly one-of-a-kind for all participants.

The Park staff thank all volunteers who assisted with these and other Park programs.

NEW: Learning Vacations

Have you ever dreamed of travelling across centuries and exploring new worlds. Well, this fall you will be able to do just that — right here in the Ottawa Valley! The Friends of Bonnechere Parks, in cooperation with project partners Friends of Algonquin, Canadian Voyageur Adventures, Bonnechere Caves and The Anishinabe Experience will be presenting a series of **Adventures In Time** travel packages designed to introduce travellers to the landscape and peoples of the Valley from 5,000BC to present day.



These one- to 5-day family packages are a wonderful way to learn about our cultural heritage — a virtual and hands-on history lesson. Explore twisting limestone caverns with walls of prehistoric fossils and rock, learn about the customs and lifestyles of Canada's First Nations peoples, and travel the Bonnechere River as the fur traders did — in an authentic voyageur canoe. Tour an outdoor logging museum, and visit the abandoned fields and waterways of the abandoned timber depot in Algonquin's wilderness.

Special guides and hosts will present the Adventures In Time on-site enhanced tours and interpretive programs from late August through October, 1999, and in spring and fall 2000. Memorable vacations are made of this!

For detailed information including agendas and rates, please visit our new website (which is currently under construction) at: www.bonnecherepark.on.ca.

Artists-in-the-Park: Ontario's Well-Oiled Legacy

Ontario Parks have always been a resource utilized by some of Canada's most respected painters, sculptors and writers. It was not that long ago that members of the Group of Seven travelled the scenic rivers and lakes of Algonquin's interior providing lasting images destined for respected collections across Canada. Today, the white hills of Killarney, the sweeping shoreline along Lake Superior, and the majestic vistas of Killbear continue to provide inspiration for a new generation of artists.

Although often solitary in nature, visual artists at work are unique focal points for Park visitors. Conversations are had, questions are posed, and an appreciation of the creative process is shared. During the summer of 1998, staff at Bonnechere Park took the process a step further by providing focused and qualified instruction under the direction of artist-in-residence Herschel Payne. The **Artist-in-the-Park** program was offered during July and August, and while new programs usually take some time to market and attract interest, from day-one this program exceeded our expectations and in most instances, our space.

Plans for the summer of 1999 are now well underway and the visual arts continue to be an important factor in our calendar of visitor activities. We look forward to

a return of the Eastern Ontario Artist's on June 16 for their second Bonnechere Provincial Park Paint-In. The Artist-in-the-Park program begins Saturday, July 10 and continues on weekends thru August 2. Each 2-hour, morning session includes materials and instruction to create your personal oil painting of a Bonnechere Park scenic vista. A special Fall-Colours Workshop will be hosted on Saturday, October 2 at 10:00am.

Various paintings, photos and poems continue to be graciously donated to the Park, lending a unique blend of visual appeal and creativity to our many public buildings. This summer, plan to try your hand at creating a masterpiece to hang at Bonnechere or over your mantel at home. And don't worry, if we see you walking along the beach with a streak of magenta or cyan on your face, we'll understand: you are part of Ontario's 'well-oiled' legacy.

The Friends of Bonnechere Parks would like to thank Herschel and his family for hosting this wonderful program.

Mapping Out a Safe Wilderness Experience

Q: *If you get lost in the wilderness, what is one of the most useful and inexpensive pieces of equipment for surviving your first 24 hours?*

Exploring the natural areas of our province is a recreational activity shared by millions of people every year. But, all too often the scenic landscapes and waterways can be disorienting. A traveller can easily get lost, without anyone knowing where they were going or where they might be. With this in mind, the Friends of Bonnechere Parks sponsored a Map, Compass, GPS and Wilderness Skills Course highlighting a variety of useful and potentially life-saving outdoor survival skills and techniques.

Course instructor and volunteer **Fred Blackstein**, master canoeist and wilderness enthusiast, guided over 70 participants through the material — a mix of technical details and common sense. Sessions included effective use of a compass, using topographic maps as a personal 911 locator, and effective planning for safe travel. Fred's extensive experience as a search and rescue participant and coordinator effectively reinforced the value of remaining calm, the importance of staying dry, and the value of leaving trip route details with those at home or base camp.

This summer, Bonnechere Provincial Park will be selling waxed topographic maps of the Little Bonnechere River region so that visitors can better appreciate the area's vast natural resources and effectively plan their wilderness adventure.

A: *One of the most useful personal survival tools is an orange, industrial-strength garbage bag. The extra large garbage bag can be folded to a wallet size and is easily transported in one's pocket. Should one become lost in the outdoors, the garbage bag provides a waterproof cocoon which most individuals can nestle in. It helps to retain body heat and can be more readily seen by searchers!*

The Friends of Bonnechere Parks would like to thank Fred for his generous contribution of time to this very worthwhile program.

RESERVE YOUR SPOT: 1-888-ONT-PARK



The best way to guarantee your spot at Bonnechere Provincial Park this summer is to call our toll free reservation line, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days of the year. 85% of our sites, including electrical and riverside sites, plus cabins, will become available on May 1, 1999. AND, if you are really planning ahead, you can reserve for 2000, too — simply call 11 months in advance or your arrival date! So don't delay in booking your stay. See you this summer!

Restoring the Pine River Ranger Cabin

This summer visitors to Bonnechere Park will be able to experience the past by simply walking through the doors of the restored Pine River Ranger Cabin, located midway between the gate house and beach, on the Park's main access road.

The students of Ottawa's Algonquin College Museum Technology program adopted our reconstructed cabin as a graduate project, and over the past year have developed and implemented a concept for recreating the cabin's interior as it was in the 1940s. The group researched artifacts and furniture, and sourced or reconstructed those which they could not find within the Park's collection. By the summer '99 season, they will have completed the installation for all to admire and enjoy.

As with any such museum-quality reconstruction, the Pine River project will be a work in progress, evolving as additional pieces are added over time. What a better way to understand life and work in Ontario's provincial parks a half century ago. We feel that just as so many Park Rangers worked hard to protect our provincial parks, this restoration honours that tradition and adds to Bonnechere's rich and diverse cultural heritage.

Bonnechere Provincial Park would like to thank Professor Mark Allston and his second year students for all their hard work and enthusiasm.

The Ross Taylor Challenge

It's renewal time once again — all 1998 memberships expire as of April 31, 1999. This year Membership Chair Ross Taylor is promising an authentic Bonnechere Park sweatshirt to one lucky Friend, and a cabin weekend at Bonnechere if we top one hundred members. Details on back!

NO NEWS IS GOOD NEWS?!

Those of you who thought you may have missed our Fall 1998 newsletter can rest assured. We have been so busy with our two new special projects, that we just haven't taken the time to keep in touch. However, this issue is packed with all that's news and noteworthy — 1998 in review plus what's new for 1999.

FRIENDS STAFF

Since January, the Friends have had the luxury of having Shawna Conway on board compliments of the federal government's EI Program. Shawna has worked on the Conference and the Adventures In Time project; she has also helped with Friends correspondence and maintaining our various data bases. Shawna will move back to the Park gate on May 1, but we hope to have her back after the busy summer season.

SPRING CLEANING

Shawna is tidying up our current mailing list. If you have received this newsletter but do not wish to remain on our list, please let us know by calling 613-732-9273 or emailing: dhouse@renc.igs.net. If you haven't renewed your membership for 2000, this is a friendly reminder to do so soon. Thanks!

TREASURES WANTED

Artifacts suitable for display at Bonnechere Provincial Park. Circa 5,000BC to 1940AD. Arrowheads, tools, dishes, furniture, photographs, maps, correspondence and folk tales. In particular an **early-1900s Park Ranger uniform** or the epaulets for same. Excellent care guaranteed. Tax receipts given for all donations. Call 613-732-9273 or email: dhouse@renc.igs.net.

WORK IN PROGRESS:

www.bonnecherepark.on.ca

Building on the popular website which Rory established for us several years ago, we are currently busy updating and uploading. The new site is now live and allows for **on-line Conference** registration. New sections to be completed by early summer include Adventures In Time (vacation packages, agendas and rates) Friends On-line, and The Bonnechere Parks. Keep checking to see what's new!

The Launch of *Discover the Spirits*

Last July, friends from far and wide came back to Bonnechere to launch our newest publication, *Discover the Spirits of the the Little Bonnechere — A Cultural Heritage Activity Book for Youth*, which we had been working on for over 18 months. Author Sandy Stephenson and her family came from the east, Helen and Peggi Armstrong's extended family came in their memory, and the Golden Lake First Nation honoured us w presence, as did local government representatives and members of the Ontario Archaeological Society, Ottawa Chapter.

It was good to see everyone and to recognize the hard work that had gone into creating this wonderful publication. To reenforce the importance of preserving and passing on our cultural heritage in ways such as this, Golden Lake elder Dorothy Commanda read a passage entitle *The Heart Beat of Mother Earth*. It was a fitting tribute and memorable on this special day.

The Friends gratefully acknowledge the contribution of those who worked with us on this publication.



In Recognition of Rory



At last August's Friends of Bonnechere Parks Annual General Meeting, **Rory MacKay** was presented with the inaugural **Board of Director's Award**, established in memory of Helen and Peggi Armstrong, in recognition for his outstanding contribution to Bonnechere Provincial Park. In making the presentation, Jim Fraser reflected on Rory's dedication, his love of the area and the people who have called Algonquin and Bonnechere home, particularly over the last 150 years.

Rory is an accomplished teacher, avocational archaeologist, librarian, blacksmith and author. One of his most recent books is *Spirits of the Little Bonnechere — A History of Exploration, Logging and Settlement, 1800 to 1920*, which was published by the Friends of Bonnechere Parks in 1997. Rory was also recognized for giving so much of his time and spirit to the efforts of the Friends of Bonnechere Parks. He has conducted pioneer blacksmith demonstrations at the Park, aided in the research and writing of *Discover the Spirits of the Little Bonnechere*, established the Friends' first website, donated historic artifacts for display at the Park, and provided a wealth of research and support to several Park projects including the Bonnechere Cultural Heritage Project.

In his acceptance speech, Rory expressed his heart-felt gratitude to those who have inspired him in his work. He especially thanked his parents, Iain and Jeanne MacKay, for instilling the value and personal reward of work, commitment to serving others, and the love of Algonquin Park.

Rory also recognized Emmett Chartrand, a teacher who inspired interest in history; Dan Strickland and Ron Tozer, teachers and role-models; and Jim Fraser for demonstrating a belief in and dedication to Ontario's provincial parks. He also thanked Helen and Peggi Armstrong, Chris Andersen, Dave Croft and his fellow members of the Ontario Archaeological Society for introducing him to the personal satisfaction and excitement of educating the public about archaeology.

For providing support, stability and friendship, Rory thanked his loving wife, Kate. He also acknowledged various friends, and the Friends of Bonnechere Parks for their recognition of his efforts and for sharing the presentation of the award with him.



Discover the Valley's Hidden Treasures



The following events are highlights from our 1999 Bonnechere Park Calendar of events — plan to join us and be sure to tell

your friends. Keep in mind you will require a Valid Daily Permit or Camping Permit to participate in most of these activities. For additional info or event updates call 613-757-2103. Come out and help make our summer a success!

Wednesday, June 16: Bonnechere Park Paint-In

The Eastern Central Ontario Art Association will host a Paint In amidst the natural beauty of scenic Bonnechere Park.

Saturday, July 10: Artist-in-the-Park Summer Program Launch

Hershel Payne will host the first of several art workshops at 10am. Be sure to pack your pallet and brushes. Corporate sponsors of our Artist-in-the-Park program are invited to an afternoon meet and greet.

Saturday, July 17: Take a Hike, Eh!

Celebrate Parks Day by participating in this national program sponsored by the Canadian Parks Partnership. This year the Friends are hosting a 5 to 6km (2-hour) hike to High Falls on the Bonnechere River, departs historic Basin Depot in Algonquin Park at 10:00am. Wear comfortable clothing and footwear to reflect the weather, and bring plenty of sunscreen.

Saturday, July 24: Spirits Night

Do some time-travelling into the past on a journey hosted by some of the colourful characters who lived at Basin Depot a century ago! 8pm at the restored Pine River Cabin in Bonnechere Park.

Saturday, August 7: Friends Festival

This event is getting bigger every year!

We will be presenting the coveted Friends Board of Director's Award at the 11am Annual General Meeting of the Friends. After a hot dog lunch, the summer fiesta begins! It's an afternoon of arts, crafts, books, displays, home baking, water sports, and lots of summer fun on the beach at Bonnechere. A great chance to catch up with your Park friends.

Saturday, August 14: Archaeological Experience '99 (kid-style)

Hosted in cooperation with the Ottawa Chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society, this day-long workshop for kids provides hands-on experience and a chance to observe a sample excavation. Learn Aboriginal cooking techniques and make a clay pot.

Saturday, August 21: Come Howl at Bonnechere Park

Travel into Basin Depot in neighbouring Algonquin Park for this memorable outdoor experience. The sound of a pack of wolves howling in the moonlight will stay with you for a lifetime!

Saturday, September 18: Archaeological Experience '99 (the real stuff)

Now an annual fall tradition at Bonnechere, the September dig is a wonderful opportunity to experience archaeology first-hand. Hosted with the support of the OAS Ottawa Chapter.

October 2 and 3: Celebration of the Flaming Leaf

Join us on Saturday, October 2, for Hershel Payne's Artist-in-the-Park fall colours workshop at 10am. On Sunday, October 3, take a hike with the folks from the Lung Association Renfrew County to admire the glorious autumn foliage along the Little Bonnechere River.

KIDS CAMP

**Lumbering Along, Bear Necessities,
A Pine in the Neck! (Groan!)**

No, those aren't the hot new summer releases, they're just a few of the fun topics that children can explore at our ever-popular **Kids' Camp**. From June 22 thru August 21, 10:00am to 11:30am, Kid's Camp offers a host of interesting and fun-filled programs:

Tuesdays: **Surf 'n Sand**

Thursdays: **A Glimpse of the Past**

Saturdays: **Nature Detectives**

Children of all ages who relish a good bedtime story will enjoy Storytime, a great way to close the day, on alternate Friday evenings beginning July 2, 7:30pm. *Bring your blankie!*

Summer Schedule!

The events highlighted on the Calendar at the right are only part of the Summer of '99 at Bonnechere. Every week from June 21 through Labour Day, the Park offers a full slate of things to see and do:

Tuesdays

10:00am to 11:30am: **Kids' Camp**

2:00pm to 3:00pm: **Meet the Naturalist**

Wednesdays

8:00pm to 9:00pm: **Evening Program**

Thursdays

10:00am to 11:30am: **Kids' Camp**

2:00pm to 3:00pm: **Meet the Naturalist**

Fridays

7:30pm: **Storytime**

Saturdays

10:00am to 11:30am: **Kids' Camp**

10:00am to 11:30am:

Artist-in-Residence Workshop

(every second week beginning July 10)

8:00pm: **Evening Program**



SATURDAY, JULY 17

TOP ONE HUNDRED

Memberships provide the executive of any non-profit organization with much needed support for their work. Since our formation in 1992, membership in the **Friends of Bonnechere Parks** has held at approximately 55. This summer, Friends staff hope to increase participation in our organization by topping the one-hundred mark in paid memberships. As an extra incentive to members both new and old, if the goal is met all names will go into an annual draw for a **free weekend** in a Rustic Cabin (and everyone has a chance to win a Bonnechere Park sweatshirt)! Membership also includes receipt of the bi-annual **Circle of Friends** newsletter. Stay informed and keep in touch all year 'round by being a member of the Friends of Bonnechere Parks. You'll be in good company!

MEMBERSHIPS

Individual (\$10) please indicate new or renewal Family (\$15) please indicate new or renewal

Memberships benefits for individuals and families include:

- subscription to the Circle of Friends newsletter,
- invitations to Friends' special events, and
- voting rights at the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Bonnechere Parks.

SUPPORT

We invite you to support the Friends of Bonnechere Parks by giving a donation of your choice or a donation according to one of the following categories:

- Annual (\$35 to \$99) Supporting (\$100 to \$149)
 Donor (\$150 to \$249) Benefactor (\$250 and up)

If your donation is an In Memoriam, please print the name of the loved one:

Make cheques payable to the Friends of Bonnechere Parks. A tax receipt will be issued for all donations.

▶
DONOR'S NAME

▶
ADDRESS

▶
CITY PROVINCE

▶
POSTAL CODE PHONE

VOLUNTEERS

As a charitable organization, we benefit a great deal from the volunteer efforts of a dedicated group of families, friends and campers who look upon Bonnechere Park as a special place. If you would like to become a part of our group, help out with a special event, or join our Board of Directors, please check the following box(es).

- Volunteer Board of Directors

FRIENDS IN NEED, FRIENDS IN DEED

Established in 1992, The Friends of Bonnechere Parks is a community-based, non-profit, charitable organization. Our mission is to encourage and support programs for interpretive, educational, scientific, historical, protection and preservation purposes related to the natural and cultural heritage of Bonnechere, Bonnechere River and Foy Provincial Parks. The operations of the Friends are authorized by Ontario Parks, and coordinated by a volunteer Board of Directors.

FRIENDS OF BONNECHERE PARKS
Box 220, Pembroke, ON K8A 6X4
WEB: www.bonnecherepark.on.ca

