

# CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF BONNECHERE PARKS

SPRING 2000

Web: [www.bonnecherepark.on.ca](http://www.bonnecherepark.on.ca)  
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Herschell Payne

## Park Superintendent

Jim Fraser 613-757-2103

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



*My first introduction to Bonnechere Provincial Park was as an Experience '75 student. At that time we took our coffee and lunch breaks in and around the small, non-descript maintenance building which housed a work counter and tool storage area. Along the east wall overlooking the beach ran an overhang which protected a few picnic tables from the summer sun and inclement weather.*

*After a lapse of many years I returned to Bonnechere in 1995 for a reunion of former staff. There were many visible signs of change throughout the Park, not the least being the evolution of that tiny maintenance shed. The overhang had been enclosed and the space now incorporated a small book store, and in the years to come, office space for summer interpretive staff and storage for rental equipment and tools. Against the east wall stood a temporary tarp which sheltered Park gatherings from the sun and rain. This revamped facility even had a name: The Davenport Centre, named in honour of Harold and Evelyn Davenport, two of our most dedicated campers and long-time Park hosts.*

*But those returning to Bonnechere this summer will see that the building that was once a meager maintenance shed, has truly come of age. With the new millennium we introduce the totally renovated and expanded Davenport Cultural Resource Centre. Spacious and accommodating — and with a permanent roof — this new facility truly signifies the progress made at Bonnechere Provincial Park over the past 25 years. We hope to meet you there this summer.*

*Betty Biesenthal, Editor*

## GRAND OPENING CELEBRATIONS: JULY 15, 2000

# Cultural Resource Centre: Phase I Complete

Thanks to years of planning and fund raising, and \$70,000 in seed funding from the Ontario Parks capital development fund, our Davenport Cultural Resource Centre is finally a reality. The new 2200 sq ft facility, located on the southwest corner of the beach area, is the result of major renovations to the existing bookstore and interpretive area. Surrounded by towering pines, the building houses an expanded bookstore [see photo], foyer, and a Grand Hall — ideal for hosting presentations, interpretive programs, meetings and special events including our annual Dig 'n Pig banquet.



The Centre also incorporates office space for summer interpretive staff and — at long last — administration space for the Friends. Outside, facing north and in the shade of the red pines, is an outdoor stage and amphi-theatre.

## WISH LIST

Current funds covered the completion of the exterior of the building and some interior work. The challenge remains to access sponsor funding for completion of Phase II: interior finishing, exhibit development and completion of the amphi-theatre. Eventually, Phase III will see the addition of an interactive cultural wing complete with secure artifact storage areas, and indoor washrooms.

Opportunities exist for corporations and foundations with an interest in natural and cultural heritage to support this development through charitable donations and gifts-in-kind in exchange for public recognition and tax receipts. Our specific needs are:

- theatre seating, lighting, sound systems
- computer work stations [hardware & software]
- secure storage/file system
- sponsored interpretive exhibits

Hidden along the shores of the Little Bonnechere are over 90 cultural sites and thousands of natural resources. Our renovated facilities will provide a centre for discovery and protection of these valuable resources.



# Notes from Bonnehchere

In looking back, 1999 was a very busy year for both Friends and Park staff. The season started with a **Shell Canada** grant providing much needed materials for our **Bridging Natures Treasures** project. We are pleased to report that all our bridges have been replaced, creating safe walking trails for Park visitors. The **Federation of Ontario Naturalists'**, *Working for Wilderness* program, **Ontario Rangers** and **CFB Petawawa** provided the much-appreciated volunteer manpower to replace the old structures.

Our innovative **Adventures in Time** tourism partnership with **The Anishinabe Experience, Bonnehchere Caves, Canadian Voyageur Adventure, Ottawa Valley Tourist Association** and **Friends of Algonquin** hosted a series of media familiarization tours for writers from across Ontario, Quebec, and tourism officials from Great Britain. The latter tour included paddling the scenic Bonnehchere River via *Voyageur Canoe* and leaving the wilds of the Bonnehchere by float-plane with bottles of Renfrew County Maple Syrup in their parks.

Our **Artist-in-the-Park** program again hosted a paint-in where **Dr. Barbara Brintnell** donated a beautiful watercolour painting of ducks on the Bonnehchere River. Our own *Artist-in-Resident Herschel Payne*, was also part of a very successful fall art show at the **Algonquin Visitor Centre** in Whitney.

Historic archaeology continued to be explored at Bonnehchere with over 300 visitors taking part in various programs. Our **Land Before Nintendo** interpretive program was delivered to all Grade 4 and 5 students at **Rockwood Public School** and at an **Ontario Archaeology Society, Ottawa Chapter** meeting. To date, this program has reached more than 400 people interested in the cultural resources of this historic watershed.

Our Friends, with resounding success and tremendous co-operation from the **Ottawa Valley Tourism Association**, facilitated the *Cultural Heritage Tourism in Ontario Conference* this past October. Attendees included tourism stakeholders from all corners of Ontario and speakers from across Canada.

**Ontario Parks** also showed great faith in the Park and provided funding to upgrade the existing *Davenport Centre*. Sharp-pencil shopping for materials and labour was implemented, and construction was conducted over the winter. Implementation of our purchasing power combined with expert workmanship has created a wonderfully versatile facility. Alas, *Bonnehchere Provincial Park* enters the new millennium with enhanced facilities and increased opportunities for year-round programming.

Now that the new season is upon us, Park staff are not sure if the number 2000 stands for the year or the number of tasks we have lined up! Whatever, the upcoming season thru next November promises to be full of accomplishments, learning and fun. Be sure to share it with us!

Jim Fraser, Park Superintendent

## PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY: A Pilot Project

Over the winter we have been working diligently to further develop our **Public Historic Archaeology Program** — one of only three currently operating in Ontario. Educational vacations exploring our cultural heritage — labeled *adventures* in tourism circles — are ideally suited for the glorious autumn season in Renfrew County. Imagine sitting on the porch of your rustic cabin, the mist rising off the water as you sip your morning coffee. Before long the call to shore sounds for you and fellow participants to gather at the pointer boat for a paddle up-river to the historic *Lafleur* homestead where a day's digging awaits. This is only one example of the unique programming we will be offering to those interested in truly experiencing the social history of the Bonnehchere River.



This spring, our **Natural Heritage Education** extension programs incorporated a field school pilot project with two local schools: **Rockwood Public School** and **Renfrew Collegiate Institute**.

On June 5, under clear skies and the diligent guidance of licensed archaeologist **Tom Ballantine**, 60 students gained hands-on experience while applying basic archaeological principles to further discover their heritage by participating in four learning modules on-site at **Basin Depot**:

1. **Built Heritage** – *Footprints in the Sand*
2. **Basin Depot** – *The Science of Archaeology*
3. **Field Lab** – *Pieces of the Puzzle*
4. **The Recovering Forest** – *Seeing the Trees*

Many thanks to teachers **Kathleen Mottershead** and **Lisanne Lasalle**, and member of the **OAS, Ottawa Chapter**, for participating in this unique and exciting program with us.

Educators interested in learning more about this program should contact **Jim Fraser** at 613-757-2103.

## HIGH-TECH HERITAGE: A Virtual Reality

For almost a decade now, *Bonnehchere Park* staff and Friends volunteers have been re-telling the story of **Basin Depot**. And before that, generations of Depot descendants and local residents have shared the rich tale that defines this small but mighty corner of Ontario's oldest provincial park at the turn of the 20th century. But as time marches on, and the **Basin Depot** descendants pass away, the challenge is to preserve this cultural heritage and effectively share it for generations to come.

In our high-tech world, the opportunities for effective preservation and illuminated storytelling are almost limitless. With technical support from **Ministry of Natural Resources** staff out of *Pembroke*, we're about to meld this new world of technology with the history of **Basin Depot** by developing a computer-generated *visualization* of this long-abandoned logging settlement.

Modern-day adventurers will virtually travel back in time to watch the evolution of the virgin forests, the arrival of the First Nation peoples followed by the European lumbermen and farm settlers, the impacts of fire and flood over time, and the eventual regrowth of the mixed forest.

This high-tech process will bring to life our rich cultural heritage as never before. More importantly, it will allow us to share our cultural heritage while preserving our natural heritage.

# Discover the Valley's Hidden Treasures

The following events are highlights from our 2000 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 the first summer of the millennium a success!

## Wednesday, June 21: 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 15: Grand Opening of Davenport Cultural Heritage Centre

At Kids Camp [10am] children can create poems, thoughts or sketches of the Bonnechere for our time capsule. In the evening [7pm] we will cut the ribbon and bury the capsule. Afterwards enjoy a presentation of Ottawa Valley fiddling and step-dancing by Alana and Angela O'Grady and friends.

## Saturday, August 12: Friends Festival

The Friends will be hosting a summer fiesta on the beach from 10am to 4pm in conjunction with Trailhead Outfitters [from Ottawa and Toronto] and the Ontario Archaeological Society — Ottawa Chapter.

Trailhead will be offering canoeing and kayaking displays and demonstrations, while the OAS will host activities for kids and families all day long including hands-on experiences and a chance to observe a sample excavation. Learn about Aboriginal cooking techniques and how to make a clay pot.

In the evening, the Friends will be presenting the coveted Friends Board of Director's Award at our Annual General Meeting, 7pm. Afterwards, enjoy a Spirits of the Bonnechere presentation.

## Friday thru Sunday, August 18 to 20:

### Adventures in Time Traditional Pow Wow at Pikwakanagan and Wolf Howl

A family weekend focusing on the traditions of the First Nation's people at nearby Golden Lake. On Saturday evening experience the wonder of a wolf howl in neighbouring Algonquin Park [see page 4].

## Saturday, August 19: Come Howl at Bonnechere Park

After dark, travel by car convoy into Basin Depot for this memorable outdoor experience hosted by naturalist and author Mike Runtz. The sound of a pack of wolves howling in the moonlight will stay with you for a lifetime!

## September 15 thru 17: Adventures in Time Archaeological Weekend

Bring the family out to dig into the past at Basin Depot and help us discover our hidden heritage [see page 4].

## Saturday, September 16:

### Dig 'n Pig — Archaeological Experience 2000 [the real stuff]

Now an annual fall tradition at Bonnechere, the September dig is a wonderful opportunity to experience archaeology first-hand. Enjoy a guided tour of this abandoned logging depot to watch professional archaeologists at work in the field, and visit an on-site artifact processing lab. Hosted with the support of the OAS, Ottawa Chapter. In the evening, join us for a hearty pig roast at the Davenport Centre, 6pm. Adults \$15, children free.

# RESERVE YOUR SPOT: 1-888-ONT-PARK

To guarantee your campsite or cottage this summer at Bonnechere or any Provincial Park across Ontario, call toll free — 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days of the year.

# KIDS CAMP

Enhance your stay at Bonnechere by taking part in our various interpretive programs — there's something for the whole family.

## Junior Adventures

Kids will explore the natural, cultural and recreational resources of Bonnechere Park through crafts, games, water sports and outdoor adventures. Runs three mornings a week for kids of all ages [young children must be accompanied by an adult].

## Family Programs

Enjoy topical evening programs ranging from night hikes to campfires and slide shows. Something for everyone on Wednesdays and Saturdays!

## Meet the Interpreter

These special sessions will held on a weekly basis. Check the program board at the Davenport Centre for details.

## Summer Schedule

June 24 through Labour Day

### TUESDAYS

10:00am to 11:30am:

### Junior Adventures

### WEDNESDAYS

7.30pm to 9:00pm:

### Family Program

### THURSDAYS

10:00am to 11:30am:

### Junior Adventures

### SATURDAYS

10:00am to 11:30am:

### Junior Adventures

10:00am to 11:30am:

### Artist-in-Residence Workshop

(every second week beginning June 21)

7.30pm to 9:00pm:

### Family Program

For up-to-date information on special events at the Park be sure to check out our website:

[www.bonnecherepark.on.ca](http://www.bonnecherepark.on.ca)

While on-line read back issues of our newsletter or order one of our books.

Be sure to sign-in if you are not a member and want to be added to our mailing list.

## NEW FACES – NEW PROGRAMS

Park staff are pleased to announce the hiring of **Tina Packer** as **Natural Heritage Education Leader**. Tina brings to this new position a wide range of interpretive experience which she has gained by working with school outreach programs, wetland research and various volunteer organizations. Rumour has it that Tina is a birdwatcher, so all those warblers will finally take their place in the Bonnechere Park species inventory.

Tina will have two Friends staff assisting her over the summer. **Jennifer Shavluk** will help with our ever-popular **Kids' Camp** and develop a series of Bonnechere Park **Fact Sheets**. [For example, did you know that Basin Depot settler Paddy Garvey left Sligo, Ireland in 1850, sailed to New York and eventually ended up as a raftsmen in New Orleans?] Meanwhile, **Amy Long** assumes the title of **Park Historian** and will be documenting more of the specific history relating to the Park land-base. Both Tina and Jennifer attended the Ontario Parks Natural Heritage Education workshop in early-June.

## DONATIONS

Over the past year, several of our members have sent donations in support of our various efforts. Many thanks to these and all who have supported our projects through their donations of time, effort and donations:

- **Fred Blackstein**, Pembroke ON
- **Sheila and Kevin Gordon and family**, Halifax NS
- **Dennis Gorr and family**, Carleton Place ON
- **Rory Mackay**, Gananoque ON
- **Brendan and Linda McKinnon**, Kingston ON
- **Carle Welk**, Clayton ON

## CHEERS TO FRED BLACKSTEIN

Speaking of Friends who give generously of their time — hail to **Fred Blackstein** — master canoeist and wilderness enthusiast, who once again hosted a Map, Compass, GPS and Wilderness Skills Course over this past winter. More than 80 people attended, raising over **\$2000** towards development of the Davenport Cultural Heritage Centre.

## SPECIAL GIFTS

Each year various people donate gifts that find a special place at Bonnechere Provincial Park. These gifts are often handcrafted works of art or craft, created to reflect the natural and cultural heritage of the Little Bonnechere River. We thank those who have given in the past, and herein recognize those we received in 1999:

- **Dr. Barbara Brintnell**, for a beautiful watercolour painting of ducks on the Bonnechere River
- **Merril Burchart**, for an original painting of a bear



## Time Travel 2000

For 2000, the Little Bonnechere River is your route to experiencing 500 million years of Ottawa Valley history, culture and heritage. Active families can experience Adventures in Time on one of two enhanced **Explorer Weekends** this season at the low rate of **\$339** [based on a family of 4]:

- Traditional Pow Wow at Pikwakanagan: August 18 to 20

- Archaeological Experience 2000 — Return to Basin Depot: September 15 to 17

Each of these Explorer Weekends include special themed events, as well as:

- 2 nights accommodation [non-electrical campsite with firewood] at Bonnechere Provincial Park, including evening interpretive programs.
- Enhanced guided tour of the Bonnechere Caves in nearby Eganville.
- Visit to The Anishinabe Experience at the First Nation community of Pikwakanagan, Golden Lake.
- Canadian Voyageur Adventures canoe trip along the Little Bonnechere River, with authentic guides and shore-side lunch.
- Bonnechere River Book Bag including *Spirits of the Little Bonnechere*, *Discover the Spirits of the Little Bonnechere*, *A Cultural Heritage Activity Book for Youth*, *A Driving Tour of the Bonnechere River Watershed*, and an Ottawa Valley Tourist Association information package.

For detailed information on Adventures in Time packages and trip itineraries call 1-800-868-8776 or visit the website: [www.bonnecherepark.on.ca/adventures](http://www.bonnecherepark.on.ca/adventures).

## TREASURES WANTED

We're still looking for artifacts suitable for display at Bonnechere Provincial Park in the newly renovated Davenport Center or in the restored ranger cabins. 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 Jim Fraser at 613-757-2103.

## PROCEEDINGS

Proceedings for the *Cultural Heritage Tourism Conference 1999 — Partnering for New Business Opportunities* are now available. Individual copies: \$40 + shipping; more than 10 copies: \$33 per + shipping. An excellent resource for those involved in cultural heritage tourism.

Call 613-732-9273 or email: [dhouse@renc.igs.net](mailto:dhouse@renc.igs.net).

## CFA TEACHERS' KIT

This spring the Friends partnered with the Canadian Forestry Association to produce a Teachers' Kit celebrating Canada's forests — past, present and future, and the Association's 100th anniversary. It's a great resource for educators, program interpreters and parents interested in teaching children and teens about the importance of one of our most valuable natural resources. Available in English and French versions.

Available at the Park Book Store; \$3.

## EARLY BIRD DRAW WINNER

We are pleased to announce the winner of our 2000 Early Bird Membership Renewal draw! Congratulations to **Jack and Dawn Livingstone** of Georgetown, ON, who have won **admission for 1 on a gentle family raft trip** with Wilderness Tours of Beachburg. *This is your ticket to adventure — enjoy!*

This is a perfect time to remind everyone who hasn't renewed your membership to use the enclosed form to do so now. A big thank you to all our members for your continued support. We are buoyed by the fact that our membership continues to increase each year.

# Slo-Poke Renewal

For those of you who missed out on the Early-Bird Draw for a whitewater rafting trip with Wilderness Tours, this is your chance to get in on the draw for a 2001 family visit to the Bonnechere Caves. Be sure to get your renewal in before September 1, 2000 for your chance to win!

## 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

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ADDRESS

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PROVINCE

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POSTAL CODE

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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

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