

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF BONNECHERE PARKS

SPRING/SUMMER 2003

Web: www.bonnecherepark.on.ca
Email to Editor: dhouse@renc.igs.net

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



After an 18-month hiatus, the Circle of Friends is once again in publication. It's been a busy time for the FBP when the focus has been on planning for the future and communicating both via new media and around the traditional table. Funding from The Ontario Trillium Foundation has provided the opportunity to establish a Strategic Plan that defines direction for FBP efforts over the coming five years. As well, our Web site was completely rebuilt and enhanced -- 95% of this work was provided on a volunteer basis! Both these tools have opened doors to increased dialogue for the sharing of ideas. Our Web site receives an average 55 visitors daily. Between newsletters, visit it often to keep in touch: www.bonnecherepark.on.ca.

Betty Biesenthal, Editor

Historic Archaeology at Bonnechere

In 2003 the FBP received funding from the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation, and Ontario Parks to host a one-year program entitled **Historic Resources of the Bonnechere River Watershed**. This funding provided a stepping-stone towards increased capacity and sustainability of the FBP through the establishment of a permanent historic archaeological program along the Bonnechere.

Under the guidance of licensed archaeologists Ken Swayze, Marian Clark and Ian Badgley, the FBP hosted a series of public digs at the Lafleur Homestead. Throughout summer 2003 and spring 2004 various school groups, park campers and visitors traveled up-river to partake in day programs incorporating guided tours of this well preserved historic property, lessons in collecting, cleaning and cataloguing recovered artifacts, and digging at various excavations and test pits at the foundation of the log home and in the barn yard.

Archaeologists Swayze, Clark and Badgley, with assistance from the Ontario Archaeological Society Ottawa Chapter also conducted testing at the McIntyre site (up-river from Basin Depot) and at Petawawa Terrace. This field testing was undertaken to establish a probability model for the protection of historic sites. Such a model would provide indicators regarding protective buffer zones around built heritage features located in remote areas where the impacts of harvesting and/or development may have a negative affect on the cultural heritage value of the area.

Based on these findings, archaeologist Tom Ballantine conducted a heritage awareness seminar for forest sector workers to better acquaint them with the signs of hidden heritage in wilderness areas.

Funding from this program also supported the FBP's participation in Journeys of Discovery (JOD), an Ontario Tourism Marketing Partnership product alliance of like-minded industry partners promoting year-round, cultural heritage travel experiences throughout the province. As in previous years, FBP partnered with the Bonnechere Caves and the Bonnechere Museum down-river from the Park at nearby Eganville. JOD marketing initiatives included Web, print advertisement and publication promotions focusing on the independent travel markets in central Canada and the northeastern United States.

Several sites exist nationally that allow for, and encourage, prehistoric archaeology, however Bonnechere River Provincial Park is one of only two sites in Canada with a public historic archaeology program encompassing the period following the first European contact with First Nations peoples. With continued support, the FBP aims to provide increased edu-tourism experiences based on the rich cache of cultural heritage resources along the Bonnechere River. Thanks to the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Cultural and Recreation, and Ontario Parks for helping us get one step further along this path.



Ottawa Valley fiddlers and stepdancers Krista and Steve Rosien performed at the Journeys of Discovery launch hosted in spring 2003 at the historic Parkwood Estate, Oshawa.



Notes from Bonnechere

This past winter, **Fred Blackstein** once again hosted the ever-popular Wilderness Survival Course on behalf of the FBP. More than 90 participants took part, raising \$2700 for the FBP. Over the years, Fred has raised over \$10 000 towards programming at Bonnechere. This year we offer Fred a very special thank you as he moves on to support other volunteer initiatives in the area. Fred, the funding from this program kick-started our efforts when we needed it most. Thank you for everything – see you on the river!

Special thanks to **Alasdair Fraser** who volunteered countless hours over the past winter to sorting our vast collection of images to facilitate their scanning and integration into our collections management system. Well done Al!

The newly opened **Nature Lover's Book Store** in Lanark now stocks a complete selection of FBP publications. The perennial favourite, *Spirits of the Little Bonnechere*, is also available at the Humdinger in Golden Lake and Coles Bookstore in Pembroke.

It's been almost a year now, but welcome back to **Park Superintendent Jim Fraser** who returned to the Park in spring 2003 after a secondment to the Ottawa River Legacy Network. **Vicki Bradley**, who filled in as Acting Superintendent for Jim moved on to become Superintendent at Chutes Provincial Park in 2003. If you are travelling between Sudbury and Sault Ste Marie, stop and say hello to Vicki.

Congratulations to former Bonnechere Park Clerk **Shawna Conway-Warren** and her husband Andrew, who gave birth to a daughter, July 8 2003. Shawna has decided to become a stay-at-home mom, but is still finds time to volunteer with the FBP as interim treasurer, replacing **Jane Duff** who is off on a 4-month journey across Canada with her husband **Pat**. Bon voyage and happy retirement Jane and Pat!

Planning for the Future

TRILLIUM FOUNDATION FUNDS FBP STRATEGIC PLAN

Thanks to funding from The Ontario Trillium Foundation, the FBP conducted a Strategic Planning Exercise (SPE) from June 2003 through February 2004. This SPE included two consultation sessions, an online survey, and a detailed SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis with representatives from the FBP Board and membership, Ontario Parks, Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Recreation and Tourism and the Ontario Tourism Marketing Partnership.

The process reaffirmed partnerships with various volunteers, provincial ministries, tourism experts, educators, historians and naturalists, reflecting FBP's reputation as a strategic, hard-working and innovative volunteer organization. The process brought together long-standing volunteers and more recent recruits, it resulted in creative thinking and strategic planning based on precedent, proven methods, current trends, and thinking out-side the box.

The SPE defined objectives and strategies by category: administration and marketing, recreation facilities, collections and archives, programming and networking. The resulting plan, *New Horizons: The Friends of Bonnechere Parks Strategic Plan 2004-2008*, sets a 5-year course incorporating:

- development of **unique learning opportunities and events**,
- increased **infrastructure** including safe and accessible play areas and walking trails,
- enhanced **communication networks**,
- continued **protection and preservation of natural and cultural heritage resources** along the Little Bonnechere River,
- increased **volunteerism and strategic alliances**,
- and better access to **best practices tools**.



THE ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION

The FBP believe that effective planning will increase visitor use of the Park and its programs, stimulate revenue streams for the FBP and the Park, and improve the local economy.

The FBP Board members were buoyed by the overwhelming support it received throughout this planning process. *New Horizons* provides both a directive and a means of measure. It will be used to guide FBP projects and — as importantly — to measure what works and what needs to be changed. It is based on the high level of FBP achievements over a decade, and establishes ambitious but realistic goals for years to come.

Thanks to all who participated and supported this project.

FBP Earns Membership in Canadian Heritage Information Network

To increase networking and information opportunities the FBP recently fulfilled the requirements for registration to the Canadian Heritage Information Network [CHIN], a Special Operating Agency within the federal Department of Heritage. CHIN members within the heritage community collaborate to strengthen their collective ability to create, present and manage digital content [www.chin.gc.ca].

CHIN also hosts the Virtual Museums Canada [VMC] Web site that features information, photographs and events of participating members. Visit www.virtualmuseum.ca and search on Bonnechere to learn more about the FBP Davenport Cultural Heritage Centre at Bonnechere Park.

Thanks to Trillium

Thanks to Ontario Trillium funding, FBP outreach and marketing activities resulted in new and innovative opportunities for increased awareness of our park and programs. The enhanced FBP Web site and membership in the Canadian Heritage Information Network

(CHIN) provide adaptable and innovative means of communicating with fellow cultural heritage organization, tourists and volunteers.

A new FBP Collections Management Software System provides leading-edge technology for the sharing of the FBP's natural and cultural heritage resources on-line. This technology broadens the traditional definition of 'community' and provides unlimited opportunities for reaching out via new technologies while promoting and protecting the natural and cultural heritage resources of the Little Bonnechere River.

The story of settlement along the Bonnechere River is significant in Canada's history. It is the story of Irish immigrants making their way to North America in search of a better life. Settling deep in the Canadian wilderness, the pioneers of the Little Bonnechere were drawn to Basin Depot to harvest the big pines. This tall timber was floated down-river to Montreal then loaded onto ships bound for Europe to aid in the reconstruction after the Napoleonic Wars.

But this is the story of Canadian colonization with a twist – for the Basin Depot settlers were not just pioneers, they were also squatters on Crown land. This meant that eventually they were forced to move on, leaving behind their humble settlement and primitive lifestyle. Buildings were destroyed or dismantled, gardens and fields grew over, the landscape was slowly reclaimed by nature. However, by default, these typical Canadian pioneers left behind a legacy of cultural heritage: ephemera and stories, tools and household items, graves and photographs.

The recovery and collection of this rich history over the past decade by the FBP, has resulted in a significant inventory of artifacts and papers. Unfortunately, due to lack of resources and space this collection has not been properly stored or catalogued, nor is it available for exhibition to the public. Using the new Collections Management Software System, the FBP will preserve this collection digitally and further integrate it into Park programming and promotion to reach a larger public via traditional and new media – nearby and internationally.

A Future Return to Basin Depot?

Roderick (Rory) MacKay, copyright 2003.

Recently, while lying in bed coping with a terrible head cold, my mind turned to pondering the valuable work that has been done by the Ottawa Chapter of the OAS at the Basin Depot site on the Little Bonnechere River in eastern Ontario. I began to wonder if there is interest among our members in continuing work at the site in future years, and what "shape" it might take. Before elaborating on that thought, for those members old and new, let me provide a brief overview of the role played by Basin Depot and what has been accomplished at the site, by both the OAS and the Friends of Bonnechere Parks.

Basin Depot was an important junction point on the Bonnechere Road, which provided access to the pine woods of current-day Algonquin Park, from as early as the 1840s. Various timber and lumber companies occupied the site from at least 1847 to the early twentieth century. Survey records provide two "snapshots" of the site, showing four timber shanties in 1847, and in 1890 showing stables and barns as well as an office, a large house at which lumbermen stayed overnight and in which a family lived permanently, as well as a weigh house and a blacksmith shop. Listings of Basin Depot in late 19th century gazetteers suggested a population of at least 50 persons in this extended community. Diary entries made by Charles Thomas, of Golden Lake, in 1850-52 indicate that there was considerable traffic along the Bonnechere Road, and Basin Depot seems to have provided a hub for routes extending to Lake Opeongo, Aylen Lake, White Partridge Lake and Radiant Lake, and the Petawawa River at lakes Travers and Grand. Few other locations in modern-day Algonquin Park have such an extended history or significance. Much more detail about the site can be read in *Spirits of the Little Bonnechere*, a book available through the Friends of Bonnechere Parks.

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Young at Heart at the Park

The FBP and Ontario Parks have partnered with the Killaloe Lions Club, Renfrew County Stewardship Council and Renfrew County and District Health Unit to offer a new program for 2004 geared to encourage and develop mature volunteers. **Active Lifestyles for an Active Community**, funded by the Ontario Ministry of Recreation, is designed to promote healthy and safe recreation pursuits in a social setting.

The program includes a series of workshops based on outdoor lifestyle skills development designed especially for early retirees and seniors. Circle the following dates on your 2004 calendar:

September 11
Outdoors Survival 101

September 18
Art in the Park

September 25
Introduction to Historic Archaeology

October 2
Birding for Beginners & Wolf Howl



RAVEN'S TALE

On July 7 and 8, the Friends Festival features **Raven's Tale**, an exhibit of original paintings in the woodland style by local artist Mark Kulas. "The work has an indigenous theme which I have adapted to my personal style." Mark creates large canvasses of nature motifs rendered in vibrant colours of blue, red, orange and yellow. Loons, wolves, bears and birds habitat definitely Canadian landscapes rendered in a bold graphic style. Meet the artist at the Davenport Centre on Saturday July 7.

FUN AND GAMES AT BONNECHERE

Bonnechere Provincial Park's 2003

Natural Heritage Education Program

proved to be both exciting and rewarding for visitors and staff alike. There was strong focus on historical and cultural aspects of the Bonnechere River and surrounding area, particularly at the Lafleur homestead, where the park hosted a weekly Archaeological Day Camp. In the 1800s the homestead functioned as a stopping place for lumberjacks headed up the Bonnechere River to logging operations. Along with the Kids' Program, *A Day at the Lumber Camp*, we celebrated the role of the Bonnechere River in the logging industry which sprung up about one-hundred-fifty year ago.

We also presented a number of natural programs informing participants about flora and fauna from the area. These included a program discussing the importance and role of wetlands in ecosystems, where we took kids out to the river and found examples of invertebrates. There was also a program focusing on the evolutionary adaptations that allow birds to fly. Our message to the kids was that parks are not just fun places to camp and swim, but are also important protected habitats for a variety of plants and animals.

In addition to our programs we hosted a variety of special events that showcased local musicians, artists and naturalists including a wolf howl, paint-in, and Friend's Festival. In total we drew close to 3000 participants and spectators over the 2003 season. We have planned another exciting line up of events and hope to see lots of smiling faces at the Park this year.

Luke Dickerson, Natural Heritage Education Leader

Archaeological investigation of Basin Depot began as a result of an archaeological mini-conference organized by Regional Archaeologist Chris J.-Andersen and Bonnechere Park Superintendent Jim Fraser. Held in 1995, it brought together archaeologists who had carried out studies within the Bonnechere watershed and in adjacent watersheds. I was fortunate to attend as a historian who had studied some of the historic period cultural features along the river. Many proposals came out of the conference, including the idea of studying the Bonnechere River from a watershed perspective, rather than being influenced by park and other political boundaries. Perhaps it was the designation of the Basin Depot area as a "recreation zone" in the Algonquin Park Master Plan of 1974 and the potential for the disturbance of the archaeological record which made this the first site investigated, or perhaps it was its convenient location straddling a relatively major access road into Algonquin Park, but early in 1996 a group of archaeologists from the Ottawa Chapter of the OAS began shovel testing at the old settlement, under the supervision of Chris J.-Andersen.

With the first artifacts, (among which were fragments of what would later be known as Pegg's Saucer) the protection of the former lumber company depot and farm from development was assured. While archaeological sites of First Nations origin had been recorded and numbered throughout Algonquin Park, particularly by Hurley and a few others from 1970 to 1974, few historic period sites had been studied. In fact during Bill Ross's brief archaeological survey of the Bonnechere River in 1975 no mention was made of the then well known historic site at Basin Depot. As a result of the OAS activity, Basin Depot received a Borden Number and was considered not just a historic feature, but an archaeological feature. While this distinction may seem to be minor to us "in the know", it was a significant step in preserving historic period archaeological sites in Algonquin Park.

Over subsequent years four public archaeology activities were held at Basin Depot, under the direction of Bonnechere Parks Superintendent Jim Fraser and archaeologist Tom Ballantine. The apparent foundation of the big house was located, and what may be the remains of a later period storehouse. Excavation of a number of "squares" about the foundations revealed crockery, window glass, and numerous other artifacts, including axes and pipe fragments. A well was located and excavated. One square in the vicinity of the blacksmith shop was also excavated partially, revealing many metal artifacts.

Visitors came from distant parts of the province on those occasions when radio announcements were made about the public nature of the activity. On-site tours made it possible to explain the history of Basin Depot and among the guests who learned about archaeology were children, adults, members of the Boards of Directors of the Friends of Bonnechere Parks and a member of the Board of Directors of the Friends of Algonquin Park. On at least one occasion, Basin Depot served as an instruction site for park staff from a number of Provincial Parks interested in learning about archaeological techniques. Papers were presented on the Basin Depot activity of the Ottawa Chapter of the OAS at an archaeological conference at Hull in 1998, and at a conference on Cultural Heritage Tourism, held at Pembroke in October 2000. Images of our activities at Basin Depot were featured in a "Historylands" video program on Algonquin Park on the Discovery Channel, and on local television news casts. You would think that support from Algonquin Park for continued activities would be great.



Author Rory MacKay digging in the remains of a midden at Basin Depot.

The activities at Basin Depot were accepted and permitted by the managers at Algonquin Park, but support was limited to permission to excavate, with moderate funding from the Friends of Algonquin Park to supplement the extensive funding and support from the Friends of Bonnechere Parks. True, Basin Depot is a long way by road from the main areas of activity in Algonquin Park and with cut-backs there were few extra staff to spare to assist in the activities. However, I believe the reluctance of the Algonquin Park staff to become equal partners in this venture had a deeper cause. During the past thirty years since the publication of the Algonquin Park Master Plan and the subsequent Management Plan of 1998 there has been little progress on the promised completion and revision of the system of Historic Sites and Historic Zones. It was considered by an influential few that historical features were only worthy of protection if visible remains of a structure were intact above the ground. Not even the activities at Basin Depot could make the Park managers aware of the important resources which lie under the surface and ensure their protection, as we shall see.

A little more than a year ago I spoke at a chapter meeting about work that I had done regarding another company farm on the Little Bonnechere River. The Egan farm appears to have operated for a much shorter period than Basin Depot, from 1850 to 1867 or so. Unlike the farm at Basin Depot, the Egan farm was much larger and located some considerable distance from the river, on the north facing slope of a hill. Although the farm had been recommended as an historic site and zone in 1978, no attention had been paid to that recommendation and apparently staff knowledge of its existence had been lost. When tree markers from the Algonquin Forestry Authority came across stone piles in the soon to be harvested forest they sought the advice of Algonquin Park staff. The site was deemed to be only of historic interest, and arrangements were made to log it "carefully", with marking tape indicating the stone piles to be avoided. No attempt was made to search Park records or the library at the Visitor Centre. Had this been done it would have been apparent that information about the farm had been reported and published, and that additional to the stone piles there was one recorded foundation. The old farm was logged, and in the summer of 2001 I made my first visit to it in twenty years.

During visits to the Egan farm in 2001 and 2002, under a "conservation" level archaeological licence I was able to determine that stone piles had been disrupted and that tire and drag marks from articulated skidders had damaged some of the five foundations or features that were visible at the site. A major logging road passed within 27 metres of one of the obvious features. A large birch tree had been felled within a metre of that same obvious feature, yet no mention had been made to Ontario Parks staff in Algonquin Park about these foundations or features. If the felling of the tree had been done safely, the logger could not have missed the presence of the feature. Artifacts were found in some of the shovel test holes. This was cause for some concern, because while Algonquin is the only provincial park in which logging is permitted, it is still a park under a Parks Act, which requires the protection of all cultural features. One might be tempted to excuse this logging activity as the result of not knowing or remembering that there was a site there, but in fact, the Algonquin Park management plan requires the immediate protection of all heritage features dating prior to 1949, pending thorough study. This requirement now has been recognized by the current Park Superintendent of Algonquin.

Following shovel testing and mapping activities at the Egan farm in August 2002, I filed a private citizen's report with a body preparing an independent audit of the Algonquin Forestry Authority. Apparently a visit was made to the Egan farm to check on the reported damage to the archaeological site. At the time of this writing, a final report is being prepared for submission to the Minister of Natural Resources, the government ministry that oversees Ontario Parks. It is hoped that from this report recommendations regarding the mapping of prehistoric and historic archaeological resources in Algonquin Park will be renewed and up-dated. It is hoped that there will be increased protection for

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Sands of Time FESTIVAL

B O N N E C H E R E
P R O V I N C I A L P A R K

*We are pleased to announce a HOT
new summer festival at*

Bonnechere Provincial Park:

*the first annual Sands of Time Festival
will be held this July 13 to 17.*

*The theme of this year's festival is
species at risk, with a focus on
Ottawa Valley species such as the
Wood Turtle and Peregrine Falcon.*

*Join us for a celebration of the
natural heritage of the*

Bonnechere River Watershed!

July 13: Kids Sand Sculpting Competition

July 14: Blues Night

*July 15: Family Sand Sculpting
Competition*

*July 17: Open Sand Sculpting
Competition and Awards BBQ.*

(Sculptures must feature a species at risk.)

Fun in the sun for the whole family!

Defining Species at Risk

Our natural world is constantly changing. Since the beginning of time, many species have vanished and new ones have evolved. Modern society has led to changes that have hastened the loss of some species, and we have come to realize that we must take action to prevent further losses and to help some populations recover.

Today, species at risk is a familiar term. Yet, like many common phrases, it is sometimes hard to know exactly what it means. When is a species considered at risk in Canada?

Species at risk includes a number of categories:

Extirpated: a wildlife species no longer exists in the wild in Canada, but exists elsewhere in the wild. For example, grizzly bears are no longer found around major rivers on the North American Plains where they were once common, although they exist elsewhere in the wild.

Endangered: a wildlife species is facing imminent extirpation or extinction. Examples are American ginseng, a perennial herb that grows in Ontario and Quebec, the island blue, a butterfly of British Columbia and the beluga whale on the east coast.

Threatened: a wildlife species is likely to become endangered if nothing is done to reverse the factors leading to its extirpation or extinction. Examples include the peregrine falcon, anatum subspecies, and soapweed in Alberta.

Special Concern: a wildlife species may become threatened or endangered because of a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats. Examples include the western population of wolverine, the Northeast Pacific offshore population of killer whales and the black-tailed prairie dog in Saskatchewan.

Reprinted with permission from Canada's Forests: A Fine Balance; a teaching kit focusing on species at risk published by the Canadian Forestry Association 2004: www.canadianforestry.com

those sites known and those yet to be discovered. It is hoped that staff in the Park will be made more aware of the importance of the archaeological resource and become more involved in its inventory and protection. It is hoped that the Algonquin Forestry Authority will be expected to contribute to these activities and live up to its stated interest in heritage resource protection. Last but not least it is hoped that Ontario Parks staff in Algonquin Park will be given the funding to make all of this happen.

Recent notice that the Third Annual Research Symposium in Algonquin Park, to be held in the near future, will be on the topic Social Science in Provincial Parks suggests that the concerns raised have been acknowledged to some degree. The inspection in October by archaeologist Ken Swayze of three sites within an area proposed for logging along the Little Bonnechere River was also a welcome development, and a sign of a much needed improvement. These are only a start toward a remedy.

How does this relate to Basin Depot? Now, more than ever, it is important that Ontario Parks staff in Algonquin Park and at the head office in Peterborough be reminded of the important resources that lie beneath the ground. Basin Depot has a long history that captures the imagination. It has revealed some of its secrets about early life on the Little Bonnechere. Of course there are other sites to investigate in the Little Bonnechere River corridor. Our OAS activities have included exploratory excavation at the Currier/LaFleur in Bonnechere River Provincial Park (where activities for school groups will continue), and on the beach at Bonnechere Park. Yet to be mapped or tested is the McIntyre farm at "The Village", much farther upstream. "The Village" was a major landmark for the surveyors of the Canada Central Extension that was intended



Students and archaeologists recover artifacts at a public dig at Basin Depot.

to link existing railways with the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1875. I hope to continue to work as possible at the Egan farm. However, it may be that activities at those sites will be restricted to surface collecting and shovel testing.

I believe an eventual return to Basin Depot is desirable for a number of reasons. A precedent has been set permitting excavation at Basin Depot. That opportunity should not be lost. Basin Depot is not so remote as to prohibit access to the comforts and showers at the Bonnechere Park staff house, which have been so kindly provided in the past. It provides further opportunity for the public archaeology activities for which the Ottawa Chapter is so well known, and it provides the opportunity for meaningful members-only research activities with drive-in access. It is up to us to determine the nature of our return.

Perhaps our focus on specific foundations at Basin Depot has been premature, although valuable. We should consider the need to return to first principles, and attempt to develop a detailed map of the site. That task may be easier now through GPS and GIS technology available at Algonquin Park headquarters. At the Egan farm, a sweep of many observers through the site revealed foundations that had been missed by a less systematic examination. Our knowledge of the Basin Depot site would be facilitated by such a sweep. Foundations of but two buildings have been located to date. Where are the others? Where are the shanties? What else is there to discover? Could we produce a publication to generate funds for further activity at the site? These are the questions left dancing in my head, and to which I hope my fellow members will give contemplation.

Other views are welcomed.

Many thanks to Jim Fraser and Tom Ballantine, who examined drafts.



Tom Ballantine Wins Board of Directors Award

At the 2003 Friends Festival, Tom Ballantine received the 2003 FBP Directors Award in recognition for his contribution towards the various archaeology programs and digs hosted by the FBP along the Bonnechere River and at Basin Depot over the past decade. In 1996, at the invitation of Park Superintendent Jim Fraser, Tom became a member of the Bonnechere Cultural Heritage Project which conducts scientific studies, collects information and develops protection models relevant to key cultural heritage sites in the region. A licensed

archaeologist, Tom hails from Gooderham and is curator of the Haliburton Highlands Museum. Although he had no previous connection with the Bonnechere River Valley before becoming involved with the FBP, Tom understands the value of what he learns through his explorations and studies of this region. "You can take what we're doing here on this river, apply it any town and do the same thing," he said. "It's just that here there's a bunch of people who wanted to do it and they had the gumption to go out and do it."

FBP Board of Directors

In the past year, the FBP have welcomed two new members to the Board. **Lynn Lafrance**, who is employed by Canadian Heritage, learned about the FBP while camping at Bonnechere Park with her family. "During our visits, we were surprised and delighted to discover that we were able to obtain valuable information about early pioneers and settlers of the Little Bonnechere River. This enabled us to gather information about my family's history in and around Basin Depot." She subsequently joined the Board because of her interest in preserving the beauty and heritage of the area. In her spare time, Lynn enjoys studying the history, culture and music of the Irish, and their links to the Ottawa Valley. She is also learning to play the fiddle. Lynn and her family live in Gatineau QC.

Anne Burchat, whose Kashubian ancestors settled in Wilno in 1860, has been an elementary teacher for 18 years and is currently teaching grade three in Richmond Hill. Anne was drawn to the work of the FBP through her interest in sharing the story of Canadian settlement with her young students. For many years she has studied Native cultures and practices to better understand their relationship with the European settlers who were greatly affected by First Nations teachings and traditions. "What excites me is that when I teach and share with my students about First Nations and pioneers, I have access to many artifacts, stories and practices gathered from my parents and, more recently, from my contact with the FBP." Anne plans to assist in developing education programs for students so that this land and its people come alive for our youth just as it has for her. "When I was growing up, Paddy Garvey and his family were our neighbours -- today he is considered a legendary figure."

In spring 2003, long-time FBP Director **Ross Taylor**, of Port Perry, was elected as President of the Board in spring 2003. Over the years Ross has been actively involved in our volunteer efforts, particularly with the archaeological digs and membership activities. Ross replaces out-going President **Olesia Van Dyke** who remains actively involved as a Director, and is the keeper of our membership/mailling database. Olesia was instrumental in acquiring funds from the Ontario Trillium Foundation for the Strategic Planning Process, and the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation for the Active Lifestyles program. Many thanks to Olesia for your leadership, and good luck to Ross as you lead us through the coming years.

Walks of the Little Bonnechere Trailhead Markers

The FBP have erected ten trailhead markers to correspond with the 2002 publication *Walks of the Little Bonnechere*. Following is a list of markers and sponsors:

McIntyre's Clearing: Rory MacKay

McGuey Farm: Lynn Lafrance

High Falls: Rory MacKay

Basin Depot: Rory MacKay

Sligo: Rory MacKay

Payne's Pine: Charles & Marie Cheesman

Whispering Pines: Elizabeth and Alan Muckle-Jeffs

Lafleur Homestead: Jim Fraser Family

Omanique's Mill: Family of Martha and Aponary Burchat

McNaughton's Walk: Pat and Jane Duff

Thank you to all who supported this unique program.

The sum of the whole is this: walk and be happy, walk and be healthy.

The best way to lengthen our days is to walk steadily and with a purpose.

Charles Dickens

2002 Donations

Victoria Alexander: \$35

Graham Armstrong: \$200 in memory of Peggi and Helen Armstrong

Ellen Blauberger: \$20

David and Lorelei Brunton: \$35

Donald and Carol Dowdall: \$50

Alasdair Fraser: \$15

2003 Donations

Ellen Blauberger: \$20

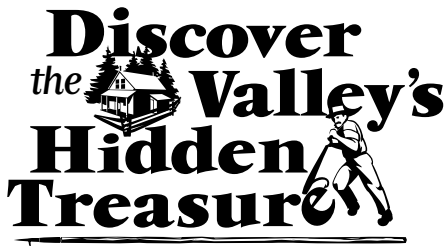
Anne Burchat: \$40

Charles and Marie Cheesman: \$120

Donald and Carol Dowdall: \$50

Alasdair Fraser: \$15 in memory of Margaret Fraser

Discover the Valley's Hidden Treasure



The following are highlights from our 2004 Bonnechere Park Calendar of Events – plan to join us and be sure to tell your friends. You will require a Valid Daily or Camping Permit to participate in most of these activities. For updates call 613-757-2103 or visit: www.bonnecherepark.on.ca

June 16, Wednesday: Eastern Central Ontario Artists Association Paint-in
Hosted by Herschel Payne.

July 1, Thursday: Canada Day
Fun for the whole family!

July 13 to 17, Tuesday to Saturday: Sands of Time Festival
Tuesday: Kids' Sand Sculpture Competition
Wednesday Evening Program: Traditional Ottawa Valley fiddling and blues
Thursday: Family Sand Sculpture Competition
Saturday: Open Sand Sculpture Competition, Awards & BBQ

July 24, Wednesday: OFAH Kids' Fishing Day
10am to 12pm & 1pm to 3pm: hosted by Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters.

August 7 and 8, Friday and Saturday: Friends Festival
Take in this weekend festival celebrating the achievements of the FBP and the natural and cultural heritage of the Parks. The 2004 Friends Festival features RAVEN'S TALE, an exhibit of original paintings in the woodland style by local artist Mark Kulas.

August 11, Wednesday: Spirits of the Lafleur Homestead
Travel back in time on a twilight tour of the Lafleur Homestead, one of the only remaining original homesteads along the Little Bonnechere River. Live re-enactments of stories and events from pioneer life circa 1800.

August 14, Saturday: Ontario Archaeological Society (OAS) Kids Day
Kids can learn about the world of historic archaeology by participating in hands-on demonstrations. Make a pinch pot and watch it being fired, view historic artifacts, and – if you are brave enough – taste stone soup. Take a guided afternoon hike to historic Lafleur homestead, and enjoy an evening program presented by the OAS

August 18, Wednesday: Evening Hike to Egg Rock
Learn about the flora and fauna that call this habitat home. Listen to the stories of the pioneers who once lived here.

August 21, Saturday: Wolf Howl
Author and naturalist Mike Runtz leads this moonlight excursion into nearby Algonquin Park in search of a howling wolf pack.

September 18, Saturday: Art-in-the-Park Workshop
Hosted by Herschel Payne.

September 25, Saturday: Dig, Pig 'n Jig
Enjoy an introduction to historic archaeology in a quiet wilderness environment immersed in the history and culture of the LaFleur homestead. Dig with an archaeologist, learn how to clean and catalogue artifacts, and take a guided tour of built heritage sites along the Little Bonnechere River. After a day in the field, join us at the Davenport Centre in Bonnechere Park for a Dig, Pig 'n Jig: an evening of Valley hospitality featuring roast pig on a spit and traditional music. Call 613-757-2103 for dinner tickets: \$15.

Kid's Camp

Enhance your stay by taking part in various interpretive programs — there's something for everyone!

Kids' Adventures

Kids 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

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

Summer Schedule

June 24 through Labour Day

TUESDAYS

10:00am to 11:00am

Kids' Adventures

WEDNESDAYS

10:00am to 11:00pm

Lafleur Homestead Guided Tour

*(be sure to pre-register
transportation required)*

7:30pm to 9:00pm

Family Programs

THURSDAYS

10:00am to 11:00am

Kids' Adventures

SATURDAYS

10:00am to 11:00am

Kids' Adventures

7:30pm to 9:00pm

Family Program

For current information on Park events watch for the "What's on at the Park" posters or check out our Web site:

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.



RESERVE YOUR SPOT: 1-888-ONT-PARK