

# The Beacon

August 2014

## Added strength to our Board

### Board Announcement: Members respond to appeal made at our AGM.

I am very pleased to advise that two of our members, who attended the Annual General Meeting, stepped forward with offers to stand for election to our Board of Directors. Both individuals bring valuable skills and experience, and were nominated and voted onto the Board, effective July 26, for a three-year term.

Please join me in congratulating and thanking both **Bev Cook** and **David Crouch** for volunteering to help with the important effort of operating our organization in a professional and effective way.

*Steve Sinclair, Chair, The Friends of Presqu'ile Park*

#### BEV COOK

Bev Cook has camped at Presqu'ile Park for many years and so enjoyed the area that she and her husband chose Brighton as the location to build their retirement home.

The Cook children and grandchildren continue to make good use of the Park.

Volunteering at Christmas at Presqu'ile introduced Bev to The Friends of Presqu'ile Park.

Bev brings many years' experience in the management of non-profit organizations and has a particular interest in strategic planning, organizational effectiveness, and financial and project management.

Bev is chair of the Policies and Procedures sub-committee and also serves as Corporate Secretary.



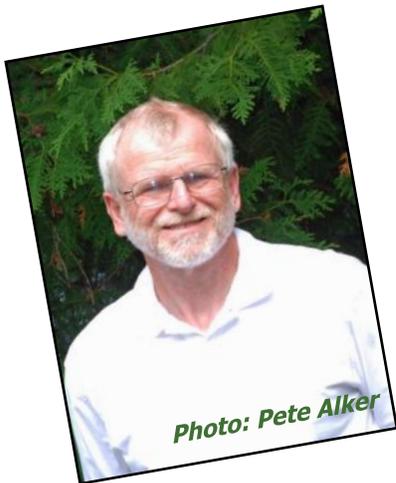
#### DAVID CROUCH

David Crouch went to high school in Brighton and worked in the area for five years following university. David and Linda have owned a cottage on the point since 1978, and have been members of The Friends for many years.

They lived in the Hamilton area for 30 years before retiring to Presqu'ile last year. Now they enjoy the Park on an almost daily basis and are usually running and/or walking in the Park every day (during all four seasons), when they are not travelling.

David is a CPA, and CA, and has five years in public practice, 18 years in the distribution industry, and 12 years operating a tax preparation business.

David has taken over as Treasurer of The Friends following the retirement of May Davies. Having completed her term on the Board, May continues to play a very active role as a key member of the BBQ team.



#### Board of Directors

- Pete Alker
- John Cockburn
- Bev Cook
  - Corporate Secretary
- David Crouch — Treasurer
- Janine McClintock
- Phil McRae
- Ian Savill — Vice-Chair
- Steve Sinclair — Chair

#### The Friends of Presqu'ile Park

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613 475 1688

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info@friendsofpresquile.on.ca

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## For the love of Presqu'ile ...

Our volunteers continue to give countless hours in support of the Friends' vision to provide learning, recreation, and conservation opportunities for all. In the last Beacon, I wrote about how the habitat at Presqu'ile was the focal point of our energy and efforts because we believe that this unique area must be preserved and protected for future generations to enjoy.

This vision can be realized only through volunteer contributions, which are numerous and varied, and I would like to acknowledge and thank our many members who help in such a variety of ways, each through his or her contribution helping advance our vision.

In this issue of The Beacon you will be able to read about things we deliver for the benefit of Park visitors, such as the upcoming Monarch and Migrants activities, support for scientific research, and **Kids 'n Nature** programs. However, it is essential that I acknowledge and thank those who provide a labour of love, often behind the scenes, to make these activities possible.

- Throughout the summer our Barbeque team not only gather to greet Park visitors and sell delicious treats. The events could not happen without trips for food, drinks, and supplies. The BBQs require maintenance, and must be set up and stored following each event. Nancy Sutton, our Volunteer Coordinator, works with the committee to be sure there is people power ... well done BBQ team.
- Our Lighthouse Gift Shop is a constant source of excellent gifts and mementos of trips to Presqu'ile. Joyce and Don Boucher begin their work in January and February with trips to the gift shows to select a wide and wonderful

variety of products. They receive shipments and set up displays, staff the store personally, supervise summer staff, greet and inform customers about the Park, and do the books and records when the doors close. Awesome ongoing energy and efforts. Thank you both so much.

- The Christmas at Presqu'ile Committee, led by Lesley Scott and Eileen Cockburn, began meeting exhibitors to jury their products in late spring and they continue organizing our major fall event. 250 or more volunteers step up and help with this show, contributing their talents from carpentry to cooking, from public relations to financial management. It is an event to look forward to and we appreciate all the effort.
- Fund-raising efforts and delivery of the myriad of activities don't happen without organization, management, and behind the scenes committee work. The Board of Directors and various committees work hard to coordinate activities, manage membership and volunteers, promote the Friends through media exposure, and provide appropriate governance and risk management. Not everyone's cup of tea, but essential none the less as part of the total effort needed for a successful organization. To each of our members who support us in this way my sincere thanks.

In closing, I would like to reiterate how essential these contributions are to our success and encourage members who may be thinking about volunteering to contact Nancy Sutton at **613 475 9817**, any Board Member, or me personally at [chair@friendsofpresquile.on.ca](mailto:chair@friendsofpresquile.on.ca).

*Steve Sinclair, Chair, The Friends of Presqu'ile Park*

*Volunteering increases levels of life satisfaction, self-esteem — and happiness. It makes people feel good about themselves when they reach out and give back.*

## Help out and have fun as one of our Volunteers

We have many opportunities for our volunteers throughout the year and we appreciate all the work that they put in to make our association so successful. Whether they are able to give a little or a lot of their time, they all have fun supporting The Friends' work.

There are two remaining volunteer activities for 2014. If you are interested in learning more, please call **Nancy Sutton, our Volunteer Coordinator**, at **613 475 9817** any time. She will get back to you if she misses your call.

- **September 27 — Brighton's Applefest Weekend.** We will have our usual stand on Main Street, on the

Saturday, September 27, and need volunteers who enjoy meeting and talking with visitors. This is a very popular event and gives us a chance to promote ourselves outside of the Park.

- **November 1 and 2, 5, 8 and 9 — Christmas at Presqu'ile Arts and Crafts Show.** We need many volunteers to help us create the Christmas House and help with the set up of our show. For the event itself, we need volunteers as parking attendants, greeters, cashiers, wrappers, sales personnel, servers and greeters in the Tea Room, help at The Lighthouse, and general helpers.

*To learn more about volunteering, contact Nancy Sutton at 613 475 9817.*

# Monarchs and Migrants Weekend

## August 29, 30, and 31

Our annual celebration of migration is fast approaching. Birds, butterflies, and dragonflies all have representative species that fly south for the winter and many of these individuals move through Presqu'ile in fall.

### MONARCH VIDEO AND TAGGING

Monarchs are well known migrants and after last year's disastrous season that saw record low numbers, it appears that the population has recovered a little bit. We have been seeing a few monarchs around and have had 20+ caterpillars pupate in our Nature Centre display so far this summer.

Learn more about the monarch's magnificent life history. We will be presenting a video, *Monarch Mysteries*, on Friday, August 29, at 8:00 pm, at the Amphitheatre.

Don Davis will once again be running a monarch tagging demonstration at The Lighthouse Centre, on Saturday and Sunday, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, and he should have plenty of monarchs to tag.



Photo: Sue Careless

Monarch tagging at Presqu'ile



Photo: David Bree

*Short-billed Dowitchers of the red western race are just one of the many shorebird species that could turn up at Presqu'ile during Monarchs and Migrants Weekend.*

### SHOREBIRDS AND WARBLERS

Birds come in all shapes and sizes, but the ones that get the most attention during this weekend are the shorebirds.

Shorebirds are the sandpipers and killdeer-like plovers that can be seen along the beach and shoreline of the park. Most of these birds nest in the arctic and winter in South America.

There can be as many as 15 different species identified here on this weekend, with 20 to 25 species seen in a year. They get a lot of play here because they are fascinating birds that are hard to see in most other places and they are actually rather easy to see at Presqu'ile as they are out in the open on the shore.

This contrasts to the many warbler species that are difficult to see as they move through but are hiding behind leaves most of the time. We will be having guided walks to see the shorebirds throughout the weekend.

### BIRD-BANDING

And speaking of warblers, the best way to see these is to check out the bird-banding demo from 8 am to noon both Saturday and Sunday. Elizabeth Kellogg and Roger Frost will once again be in the Park (at the Owen Point parking lot) to explain the whys and wherefores of bird-banding and show their captures up close. This is a 'weather permitting' event as it is unsafe for the birds in rain or high winds.

### NATURE WALKS AND PROGRAMS

We will also have walks to look for migrating birds, butterflies, and those dragonflies. Please contact me for an update at [david.bree@ontario.ca](mailto:david.bree@ontario.ca), or check The Friends' website, [www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca](http://www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca) for the weekend program. There will be an evening program on migration at the Amphitheatre, on Saturday night at 8:00 pm.

### THE FRIENDS' LIGHTHOUSE GIFT SHOP

The Lighthouse Centre and The Friends' Gift Shop will be open both days, from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

### LAST OF THE SUMMER BBQs

The Friends' final fund-raising BBQ for 2014 will be held on Saturday, August 30, from 11:00 am until 1:30 pm, in the campground area, between the Amphitheatre and the parking lot, right beside the lake.

Hope you can get out and take in some of the migration on the last weekend of the summer. It makes a great outing for those who appreciate nature, families and individuals alike.

*David Bree, Sr. Natural Heritage Education Leader*

## Goosey prefers to go wild in Presqu'ile

The sight of Canada Geese along the Day Use areas in Presqu'ile is not unusual. Three or four pairs raise families along this stretch of lakeshore every year. The cut grass is ideal grazing for the geese and the water is nearby to waddle out to if danger threatens.



Photo: David Bree

Starting in May the fuzzy young chicks can be seen following their parents around. By the time August rolls around, the young birds have their adult plumage with the characteristic white cheek patches, and 30 to 40 birds can be seen grazing on the grass before the picnickers come in for the day.

This year, however, our goose herds have been getting some double takes. Among the usual Canada Geese is a giant grey

goose with a bright orange bill. What?! Is it a White-fronted Goose? No, far too large.

A closer look reveals that it looks much like a Greylag Goose from Eurasia, which is the basic stock from which domestic geese have been developed, and 'Goosey', as staff have dubbed it, is no doubt an escaped goose.

Unlike most domestic geese, however, Goosey can fly. For now it seems quite happy hanging out with its smaller Canada Goose friends. Whether it leaves with them in the fall is a question that only time will tell.

*David Bree,  
Sr. Natural Heritage Education Leader*

## Significant staff changes at the Park Office

Presqu'ile Provincial Park has experienced some significant staffing changes during the summer of 2014.

Clark Richards, who was the Assistant Park Superintendent at Presqu'ile for the last four years, has left Presqu'ile to take an assignment as the Acting Park Superintendent at Bon Echo Provincial Park. Clark will be sorely missed as his positive attitude, and ability to manage issues and situations, were excellent. He will be gone for at least a year, and perhaps longer.

The Park is very lucky and excited to have Steve Sprigings as Clark's replacement in the Assistant Park Superintendent role. Steve has over 12 years of experience in the Provincial Park system during which time he has worked at Sandbanks, Algonquin, Lake St. Peter, and Silent Lake. He is a great addition to the Park staff. Please welcome him to Presqu'ile when you run into him.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Tom Mates a hearty happy retirement as he moves on to enjoy his cottage and other activities. He has done a great deal for Presqu'ile and guided the Park through some of its most tumultuous times. Tom will be in and out of the office on a few occasions until late this fall, so if you see him, wish him well.

I am extremely happy to be here at Presqu'ile permanently. If you have any questions or comments please come up to the office to see me.

Of course, no message for 2014 would be complete without some mention of the road. Construction of the road will be occurring this fall. As I have been writing this letter, the invitation to tender has been posted and we await the results.

*Rob Cunningham, Park Superintendent, Presqu'ile Provincial Park*



Photo: Pete Alker  
*Steve Sprigings,  
Assistant Park Superintendent*





The Friends of Presqu'ile Park's  
**2014 RAFFLE**



**WIN a fabulous**

**KAWARTHA Canoe**

**made by** ClearWaterDesign   
canoes & kayaks



The prize includes: **ClearWater Design KAWARTHA Canoe, 2 Redtail Paddles, 2 Salus Personal Flotation Devices, and 1 Fox 40 Marine Portage Safety Kit**

Tickets **\$2** each, **3/\$5**, or **10/\$10**  
available from members of The Friends, and  
at The Lighthouse Interpretive Centre.

The draw will be held at The Lighthouse Interpretive Centre,  
at 4:00 pm on Sunday, October 12, 2014.

All funds raised are used in support of The Friends' programs in  
Presqu'ile Provincial Park. For tickets and more information  
call 613 475 1688 or visit [www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca](http://www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca)

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our App



*Show your support of The Friends' programs  
by purchasing Raffle tickets!*

*Good luck!*

# New sandwich boards located around the Park

If you have visited the Park recently we hope you have noticed the two new sandwich boards. They are located next to projects that The Friends are supporting financially or events that we are carrying out.

Many Park visitors are not aware of the various ways in which we support Park Management in making their visit more enjoyable. We thought we would enlighten them and hopefully solicit support, either financially or perhaps through membership or volunteering.

Remember to do the same when you are chatting to friends and family.

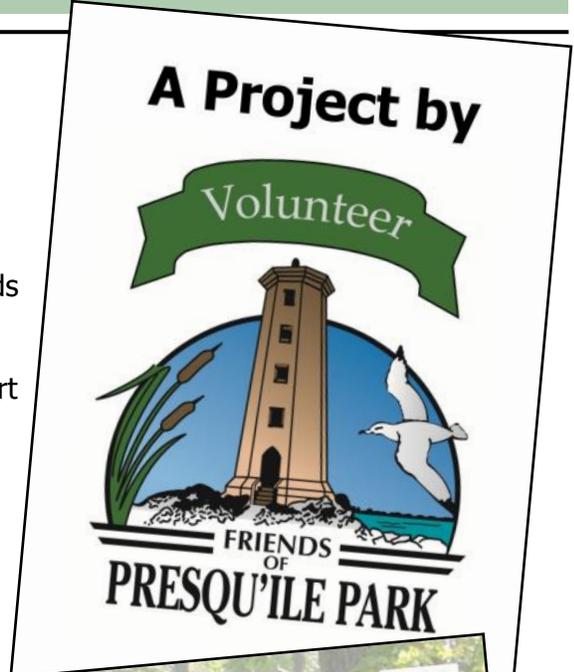
Making a donation through **CanadaHelps** is very easy. There is a link on our website. As one of our donors recently said, 'It is smooth and very fast, including receiving the Income Tax receipt by e-mail'.

Please indicate whether you wish your donation to go into our **General Fund** or into our **25th Anniversary Environmental Fund**. You can read more about two of the environmental projects we continue to support on the following two pages of this newsletter.

In 2013, The Friends made significant contributions to programs and activities in the Park.

- \$24,000 was spent on our **Kids 'n Nature** School Group Program and the Summer Camps;
- \$44,000 was allocated to other educational programs in the Park, including The Friends' share of the salaries of summer students and some Natural Heritage Education staff; and
- \$18,000 was our contribution to environmental projects in the Park.

We are grateful for the many donations we receive, and also, we have a number of fund-raising activities that help us to raise the tens of thousands of dollars we spend each and every year in the Park.



# A Road to Conservation: Summer update

It has been a busy and exciting summer this year. You may have seen my field technician, Tasha, and me biking up and down the road again this summer.

We have been continuing the surveys I began last year in an effort to evaluate the reptile and amphibian mitigation which is set to be installed along the main Park road this fall.

There are several points along the road which have orange stakes in the ground marking where culverts, designed to help animals cross the road, are to be installed.

Two types of cement culverts will be used: large box culverts (~1.5 x 2.0 m) designed for reptiles, and smaller culverts specifically designed for amphibians (0.5 x 0.8 m). These culverts will allow safe passage of reptiles and amphibians (as well as all sorts of other small critters) across the road, while 0.8 m-tall fencing will keep them out of harm's way.



Female Map Turtle

We have had a couple of special guests appear in the Park this year.

An adult female **Map Turtle** (*Graptemys geographica*) was captured in one of our traps in the first half of June.

Together with a couple of juvenile Map Turtles spotted by Natural Heritage Education staff, these sightings make up the 5th, 6th, and 7th sightings ever in Presqu'ile Park.

You may recall that last year Mink Frogs were added to the list of species found in the Park. For a second year in a row, **Mink Frogs** (*Lithobates serpentrionalis*) have been spotted and heard within the Park limits.

Over the past month, tadpoles have grown some legs, lost their tails, and started moving out of their first wetland and



Blanding's Turtle sets out to cross the road

moving to others. This 'dispersal' phase of their life is an important part of the ecology of frogs. It is largely at this stage that frogs are able to expand their home ranges and move to areas with resources more suitable for adults.

Sadly, this has a very negative consequence, as in order to move from one wetland to another, they have been crossing the main road into the Park.

Nearly 2000 frogs have been killed on the road between the

camp office and the Marsh Boardwalk since this dispersal phase has begun. This is a sad reminder of how important it is to drive a little more carefully at night, and help frogs, snakes, and turtles across the road.

Several times through July and August, I was fortunate enough to join the **Kids 'n Nature** Summer Camps to talk to the campers about the cool critters we have in the Park as well as what we are doing to protect them! I had a great time talking to the kids, and by the sounds of it the talk was a great success. I also was invited to talk at the Brighton Public Library.

Recently, I have decided to spread the word about the project and things we can do to help reptiles and amphibians in a whole new way.

I have started a twitter account in which I post updates about the project, cool nature facts, or other interesting stories about reptiles and amphibians in Canada and the world. If you are interested, you can follow me **@PQPTurtles**.

In conclusion, please feel free to stop one of us on the road to ask a question or tell us about a turtle, snake, or frog you may have seen in your travels.

*Sean P Boyle*

Photos: Sean Boyle



25th Anniversary Environmental Fund

Being created to provide a dependable, long-term source of funds to preserve and restore the environmental ecology at Presqu'ile Park.

*Research at Presqu'ile Park is focused on species or habitats at risk.*

# Common Tern research showing positive signs

The summary is that the terns have had a great season. We have 109 nests laid and (as of late July) they are still laying. So numbers are up.

After years of little or no productivity due to predation by Black-Crowned Night-Herons and gulls, we developed a modified gull exclusion grid (typically used to keep areas open for tern nesting) that we call a predator exclusion grid (to exclude both types of predator).



Common Tern on grid wire Photo: Steve Sinclair

The grid was erected after laying in late May/early June and was highly successful. The colony has already fledged large numbers of chicks relative to other years. Also of key importance is that the chicks that have fledged already are fledging at the right time and are offspring of the best parents (parents that lay early in the season and are not exhausted from multiple nesting attempts).



Banded adult Common Tern Photo: Steve Oswald



Young Common Tern chicks Photo: Steve Oswald

Thus, these fledglings will have a high chance of survival during migration. We'll be expecting to see some show up as adults here at Presqu'ile in 2017 and 2018.

The recapture poles (included in The Friends of Presqu'ile funding) were also a great success. We have tens of thousands of pictures taken of bird bands across the season.

Although we will not dig into the pictures in detail until the fall, we can say that we captured bands from a large number of birds in the colony, some of which we were unable to identify via traditional methods.

We were also able to identify pairs using the pole simultaneously and improve our understanding of colony dynamics (i.e., who is around the nesting area, and when, in the season).

Now that we have worked out the logistics of the pole design, we will continue to use it here in future years and, we hope at other sites, to gather additional information to support our work at Presqu'ile.

We are very grateful to The Friends of Presqu'ile for their support and we enjoyed taking Phil McRae and Steve Sinclair out to the island to see the colony.

*Dr Jennifer Arnold*



25th Anniversary Environmental Fund

Being created to provide a dependable, long-term source of funds to preserve and restore the environmental ecology at Presqu'ile Park.

*The 25th Anniversary Environmental Fund helps us support Species at Risk projects, Invasive Species projects, and Scientific Research.*

## Christmas at PRESQU'ILE

We are looking forward to another successful **Christmas at Presqu'ile Arts and Crafts Show**.

Over 250 or so volunteers help with every phase of Christmas at Presqu'ile, our major fund-raising activity in the calendar of The Friends. We are very grateful for their time and effort.

Set in the Park and presented in two beautiful Heritage homes and The Lighthouse Interpretive Centre ... all overlooking Lake Ontario, Christmas at Presqu'ile draws thousands of visitors. We are well known for being one of Eastern Ontario's premier juried Arts and Crafts Shows.

### THE CHRISTMAS HOUSE

Over 130 artisans and crafters from all across the province must go through a careful jurying process to have their work accepted for display and sale.

Their selected works are organized and displayed by a group of volunteers throughout the main venue, The Christmas House (also known as The Nature Centre), open from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm. Each year we accept 20 to 30 new exhibitors so there will be plenty of new work available as well as the favourites.

### THE TEA ROOM

Stonehedge, next door to The Christmas House, is transformed into the Tea Room, where visitors can sit and relax in a friendly atmosphere, and enjoy desserts and hot drinks.

### LIGHTHOUSE ART GALLERY

The Lighthouse Interpretive Centre features professional artists, Doug Comeau, Rose Brown, and Linda Barber, who will be on site, and The Friends' Lighthouse Gift Shop will also be open from 10:00 am until 5:00 pm.

So please, mark these dates on your calendar - **November 1, 2, 5, 8, and 9, 2014** - see you there.



*Christmas at Presqu'ile Committee — (left to right) Lesley Scott, Marg Hanlan, Helen van Poorten, Peggy Griffiths, Eileen Cockburn, Anne Onishchuck, and Linda Collins*

## Join or renew your membership of The Friends

Membership of The Friends of Presqu'ile offers a great opportunity to support The Friends' programs and to have fun through our volunteer opportunities.

If you have not already done so, there is still time to renew your membership for 2014-2015 before our Christmas at Presqu'ile show. You can mail your cheque for \$20 to The Friends of Presqu'ile Park at PO Box 1442, Brighton, K0K 1H0.

You will find the Membership/Donation form on our website at [www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca/howtojoinusc5.php](http://www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca/howtojoinusc5.php). And, we always appreciate donations to support our many projects in Presqu'ile Park. You can donate conveniently when you join us or make your renewal. Income tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$10 and more.

Please do tell your family and friends about the good work The Friends are doing in Presqu'ile Park and share this copy of The Beacon with them.

If you have any questions about membership of The Friends, please contact **Maureen O'Connor, our Membership/Donations Coordinator**, at **613 475 5460**, or by e-mail at [maureenfopp@gmail.com](mailto:maureenfopp@gmail.com).

And, please let Maureen know about any changes to your address, telephone number, and e-mail.

*Thank you for being a Friend.*



23rd Annual

*Christmas*

at **PRESQU'ILE**

**QUALITY ARTS and  
CRAFTS SHOW**

**TEA ROOM - Desserts only**

**November 1 and 2, 5, 8 and 9**  
**10 am to 4 pm**

... and, at The Lighthouse Gallery,  
artists **Doug Comeau, Rose Brown, and Linda Barber**  
(10 am to 5 pm)

**FREE ENTRY TO THE PARK AND THE SHOW — FREE PARKING**

Directions: Hwy 401 to Hwy 30 (exit 509), south to Brighton. Follow Presqu'ile Provincial Park signs.

Telephone 613 475 1688

E-mail [lesjacscott@yahoo.ca](mailto:lesjacscott@yahoo.ca)

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



*When you support Christmas at Presqu'ile, The Friends' Gift Shop, our Raffles,  
and the BBQs, ALL of the proceeds remain in Presqu'ile Park.*

# History Weekend 2014

Presqu'ile's History Weekend once again allowed visitors to relive Presqu'ile storied past. Old favourites such as the Calthumpian parade, boat building and regatta, 1812 Mini Muster, Lighthouse area tours, and our fun and games with sack race, tug-o-war, and more were enjoyed by all.

New this year was a recreation of the burning of a British ship at Presqu'ile in 1814 (see **Smoke on the Water**) and a Silent Movie night.



*L McClintock plays at the silent movie*

The latter was memorable not only for the movie starring Charlie Chaplin and Cobourg's Marie Dressler but also because it had live piano music accompaniment provided by Natural Heritage Education staffer Laura McClintock. Laura deservedly received a standing ovation after 45 minutes of straight playing.

Sunday's wrap-up was the traditional Ghost Walk where visitors are led through the Space-Time Vortex, meeting characters from the past. This year we were looking at great Presqu'ile rivalries

and the audience decided that Ben (Rum-Runner) and Louisa Kerr, ably played by Hayden Wilson and Rachel Revoy, were the greatest rivals. These two were immediately arrested by Warden Andy Sequire for disturbing the peace in the Park since 1929.



*H Wilson as crochety farmer on his way to the shipyard*

Thanks to all the NHE staff and other Parkies who helped out to make this another successful History Weekend.

*Photos: G McPherson*

*David Bree, Sr. Natural Heritage Education Leader*

# Smoke on the Water

History Weekend 2014 went off with a bang, or several, as is usual when the 1812 re-enactors are in the Park. This was the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the burning of a British schooner being built at the shipyard in what is now Calf Pasture so our annual re-enactment re-created this event.

On Saturday, August 2, our visitors met at the top of Atkins Lane and were joined by shipyard apprentices who took the prospective ship buyers down to Master Gibson's shipyard. On the way, they met several characters from the past that set the tone for life in 1814 on the peninsula.



*American raiders attack  
Photo: G McPherson*

Farmers, soldiers and their wives, as well as militiamen and sailors, all told their stories. Master Gibson himself met the prospective buyers and told them about war ships on Lake Ontario and the schooner he had almost completed for the Royal Navy. Unfortunately, American raiders landed, shots were exchanged with the local militia, and the Americans burned the boat before leaving.

While our re-enactment took some liberties with the truth (no shots were fired in 1814), it did present a dramatic event in Presqu'ile history to our visitors. Staff, volunteers, and visitors alike all enjoyed the excitement. Thank you to Geoff Audas, and his friends and family, who provided the troops and firepower for this event.

*David Bree, Sr. Natural Heritage Education Leader*

# Kids 'n Nature



*We cannot always build the future for our youth,  
but we can build our youth for the future.*

Photo: J Alker

## SUMMER CAMPS

Michelle Lunitz, our Kids 'n Nature Interpreter for 2014, is right in the thick of it at the moment running our Summer Camps.

At the time of writing, Michelle and Jennifer Hilton, and a team of volunteers, have just completed the first Summer Camp for the 12- to 14-year-old boys and girls (August 11 to 15), and this week (August 18 to 22) they will be running the third Summer Camp for the 8- to 11-year-olds. Four camps is quite a considerable work load.

By all accounts, everything is going extremely well — we'll just have to wait for the photos, comments, and anecdotes — in the next issue of The Beacon.

## SCHOOL GROUP PROGRAM

Earlier in the year, Michelle had a very successful and busy spring delivering the Kids 'n Nature School Group Program into the public schools. There was much positive feedback from teachers, who were very thankful for the free programming.

For those of you who are interested in statistics: the in-class visits totaled 10 classes, 215 children; and the in-Park visits totaled 33 classes, 812 children.

So far this year, through our Kids 'n Nature School Group Program and our four Summer Camps, nearly

1100 children will have enjoyed learning about the rich diversity of Presqu'ile Park.

It is extremely satisfying for all of us to be involved in such a successful educational program and we are very grateful for all the financial support we have received.

Special thanks to the Brighton Health Services Centre for their grant that helped us expand our Summer Camps this year.



Photo: M Lunitz

*The boys from one of our Summer Camps are looking at a salamander, some spiders, and some frogs*

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# Autumn at The Lighthouse Gift Shop



Where did the summer go? Autumn is almost upon us and with that come several changes.

Our delightful summer students, Hanna and Rachel, will soon return to their studies, our hours of operation will be shortened, and we will have many of our interesting items on sale.

Even so, there is time to find that perfect souvenir or gift, and to visit The Lighthouse Art Gallery.

By the way, we are still looking for **Shop Volunteers**.

Interested? Please call me at 613 475 1428.

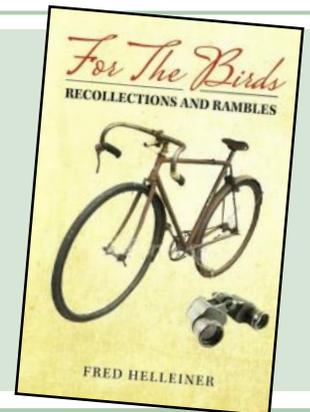
Joyce Boucher  
Lighthouse Gift Shop

***Your purchases really do make a difference.***

***100% OF PROCEEDS from sales at the Gift Shop remain in Presqu'ile Park to further educational objectives.***

The booklet *For the Birds, Recollections and Rambles* that has been available in the Lighthouse Gift Shop is now sold out, but the Brighton Public Library does have a copy.

The author, Fred Helleiner, wishes to thank all those who supported The Friends of Presqu'ile by buying a copy, as well as those who helped to promote it among their contacts.



**Come and visit The Friends' display  
at Brighton Applefest,  
on Saturday, September 27, from 10 am until 4 pm.**

**You will find us at the south-east corner  
of Memorial Park, on Main Street, Brighton.**



***Volunteers wanted ... a sense of humour is essential ...  
The Friends are grateful for whatever time and skills you are able to give.***

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2014-15

### 2014

#### **August 29, 30 and 31: Monarchs and Migrants Weekend, from 8 am**

Bird-banding, Monarch tagging, and guided nature walks celebrate this weekend of fall migration.

#### **September 6 to 28: Fall Interpretive Program**

Friday video presentations and guided hikes on select weekends. The Lighthouse Interpretive Centre and The Friends' Gift Shop will be open weekends.

#### **November 1 and 2, 5, 8 and 9: 23rd Christmas at Presqu'ile Arts and Crafts Show**

Fine arts and crafts on sale, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm daily, at the Christmas House (Nature Centre). Visit the Tea Room at Stonehedge and enjoy our famous rum cake and hot drinks. The Lighthouse Interpretive Centre featuring artists Doug Comeau, Rose Brown, and Linda Barber, and The Friends' Gift Shop will be open from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Free entry to the Park and free admission to the Show. Free parking.

The Friends' Gift Shop will be open 7 days a week, throughout the summer, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

It will be open on the weekends until Thanksgiving, and otherwise by appointment, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

For more information, please call **Joyce Boucher** at **613 475 1428**.

### 2015

#### **March 14 and 15: Waterfowl Weekend, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm**

World-class waterfowl viewing during the spring migration. Volunteer naturalists will help you view and identify over 25 different species of ducks, geese, and swans. Also check out the children's activities. Join The Friends for BBQ lunch at the Lighthouse, on Saturday and Sunday, from 11:00 am. The Lighthouse Interpretive Centre and The Friends' Gift Shop will be open (10:00 am to 4:00 pm).

#### **May 16 and 17: Warblers and Whimbrels Weekend, starting at 6:30 am**

View the elusive Whimbrel and many colourful Warblers as they migrate to their northern nesting grounds. Enjoy guided nature walks, bird-banding, and evening programs. Join The Friends for BBQ lunch at the Lighthouse, on Saturday and Sunday, from 11:00 am. The Lighthouse Interpretive Centre and The Friends' Gift Shop will be open (10:00 am to 4:00 pm).

#### **June 13, 20, and 27: Spring Interpretive Program**

Guided nature walks each weekend. The Lighthouse Interpretive Centre and The Friends' Gift Shop will be open weekends (10 am to 4 pm).

#### **July 1 to September 6: Summer Interpretive Program**

Programs will be posted on our website, [www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca](http://www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca), and throughout the Park, every week. Daily family programs (except Wednesdays) - guided walks, children's programs, evening talks, and campfire sing-alongs. Every Saturday lunchtime, The Friends will hold their fund-raising BBQs, near the amphitheatre, from 11 am. The Nature Centre, Lighthouse Interpretive Centre, and The Friends' Gift Shop will be open daily (10 am to 5 pm).

#### **July/August (dates to be confirmed): Kids 'n Nature Summer Day Camps, 8- to 14-year-old boys and girls**

#### **July 31, August 1 and 2: History Weekend - War of 1812-1814, 10 am to 10 pm**

Relive Presqu'ile's storied past and take part in events. See 1812 re-enactments. Participate in old-fashioned field games, children's boat-building bee and regatta, ghost walks, a history play, and more.

**Unless otherwise noted all events are FREE.**

**A valid park permit is required to enter the Park.**

For more information on events, visit **The Friends of Presqu'ile Park's website** at [www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca](http://www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca) or contact **Presqu'ile Provincial Park** at **613 475 4324, ext 225**.

Views expressed in *The Beacon* are not necessarily those of The Friends of Presqu'ile Park or the Editor. Some articles are published to give a viewpoint and to encourage discussion. We welcome suggestions and constructive criticisms, and also your articles and photographs, for inclusion in the newsletter.

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or e-mail: [info@friendsofpresquile.on.ca](mailto:info@friendsofpresquile.on.ca)

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