

The Beacon

May 2016

Register now for our themed 2016 Kids 'n Nature Summer Camps

'Amazing! Fantastic! Can't wait for next year!' These are comments we hear again and again from kids and parents about our **Kids 'n Nature** Summer Day Camp at Presqu'ile. We are thrilled to be back for our 6th summer with 4 different themed camps.

Campers will enjoy learning about the natural and cultural history of Presqu'ile as they explore 5 different habitats through hiking, games, crafts, and educational activities.

We offer four, five-day (Monday to Friday) camps for **8- to 14-year-olds**:

~~July 11 to 15: Water World~~ **FULL**

Splash, dash, and learn. Discover the creatures that live in the lake, the marsh, and the surrounding habitats. Explore aquatic habitats by looking at the science of water quality through pond study.

~~July 25 to 29: Super Survival~~ **FULL**

Walk like a fox, hear like a deer, and watch like a hawk. Use your stealthy skills to survive in the forest. Understand how nature works through orienteering skills, shelter building, and plant identification.

August 8 to 12: Forest Adventures

Hone your awareness skills as you journey through the forest, discovering the power of plants, the language of birds, the senses of mammals, the appetites of insects, and the connections between them all.

~~August 22 to 26: Shipwrecks and Pirates~~ **FULL**

Arr matesys! Explore Presqu'ile's naval history by decoding a pirate's maps, scavenger hunting for buried treasure, and building a lighthouse. Investigate the importance of Lake Ontario in the past, present, and future of the peninsula.

We will accept a limited number of **12- to 14-year-olds** to each camp week. While

they will be alongside the younger age group, they will participate in more challenging activities and leadership opportunities.

Cost per child per week is **\$125**.

NEW for this year — You can now sign up for Summer Camps on-line. Please follow this link: www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca/summer-day-camps.php

For more information, please e-mail us at kidsn.nature@friendsofpresquile.on.ca, visit www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca, or call **613-475-1688 ext. 3**.



Some campers, 2015 Photo: Krista Neilly

BHSC continues to help our Kids 'n Nature Summer Camps

This year, the **Brighton Health Services Centre** recognized **Kids 'n Nature's** contribution to active living opportunities for youth by awarding The Friends some funding to help us with our Summer Camp program. I am very honoured to accept the award at the BHSC Annual General Meeting, to be held on May 12.

We are pleased to provide a quality summer experience to local youth.

Avoid disappointment and sign up soon for the young person in your life!

Janine McClintock



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The Friends of Presqu'ile Park

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[Donate Now](#)

Where People and Nature Interact

With the theme for 2016 being **History in the Present**, it is an ideal time to draw connections between the way in which Presqu'ile functioned in the past and the way we are using the Park now, and what this means to The Friends of Presqu'ile Park.

Our Vision—The Friends of Presqu'ile Park view Presqu'ile Provincial Park as a valued and irreplaceable asset that should provide learning, recreational, and conservation opportunities for all. We are an organization that believes above all that the natural heritage of this unique area must be preserved and protected for future generations to enjoy.

As I prepared to write this article in the context of this year's theme, I was struck by how both the **People** and **Nature** aspects of The Friends' Vision for Presqu'ile are so very appropriate as we cast our view back in time.

When you visit the Marsh Boardwalk, rebuilt by The Friends about five years ago, you will read on the interpretive board at the first viewing tower how nature created our tombolo. Once formed, unique flora and fauna – plants, birds, mammals, and reptiles thrived according to the laws of nature.

Up until the early 1800s, there simply was no need for people and nature to interact. However, that changed around the time that the Speedy sank (another interesting aspect of history depicted on interpretive plaques in the Park and in the Lighthouse Interpretive Centre, along with the displays and our Jack Atkins history videos).

By the early 1900s, Presqu'ile became popular as a recreational area with most visitors arriving by boat. Access by land began with simple trails suitable for horse and wagon and slow-moving Model 'T' motor cars. These small trails cut through the middle of the Marsh/Panne habitat were of little concern to the turtles migrating to their nesting areas because of the infrequent and also slow-moving traffic.

However, in this, the 21st century, it is a very different scenario. The impact of people on nature in this day and age is dramatic, with over 200,000 Park visitors and with services being provided to the many cottages and now permanent residents on Presqu'ile Point. This once



Hay Wagon in Presqu'ile, circa 1940

innocuous little trail has become a major access roadway to construction and recreational vehicles by the thousands.

Today 'nature' needs a hand from 'people' to prevent some of our very important 'species at risk' from becoming extirpated.

The Friends of Presqu'ile are proud to be participating in a joint activity between Ontario Parks, Laurentian University, and many others including the Brighton Rotary Club Henry Hayes Memorial Fund, to reconnect the habitat severed by the road through constructing underpasses and environmentally appropriate directional fencing.

It is a very large and important initiative, which demonstrates we are not the only ones who believe this unique area must be preserved and protected for future generations to enjoy.

Our members can be proud of the increased contributions made in recent years, and I would invite you to attend our Annual General Meeting on June 4th to learn more about the accomplishments of our fantastic organization, some of which are contained in this large spring edition of the Beacon.

Regards,

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

The Experience that is Presqu'ile

A Provincial Park is a special place. I think most folks who are reading this already know that. However, every once in a while we have some people who really articulate what this actually means. For the staff at the Park, their comments really reinforce what this place means to people.

Paula and Ivan are a wonderful example of this. They contacted the Park during the summer of 2014 during a trip to Canada from their home in Mexico. They basically said they wanted to come and volunteer and help out at the Park. They had no caveats and no restrictions, they just wanted to help.



Paula Calzada and Ivan Cruces, our Mexican friends

Photo: David Bree

I urge you to read this charming letter, and think about what it means.

Rob Cunningham, Park Superintendent, Presqu'ile and Ferris Provincial Parks

... for us, the most special Park

A letter from our Mexican friends, Paula Calzada & Ivan Cruces



On a holiday trip to Canada in 2014 we visited Presqu'ile Park for the first time and were surprised by the work done there on environmental education and the infrastructure at Presqu'ile.

Parks in Canada and Ontario Parks are very different from those found in national parks we have in Mexico. Being biology students we also came to ask for information about volunteering in 2015 and we found the first of many good people in Presqu'ile. Superintendent Rob Cunningham, who explained to us that we were welcome to set up a volunteer program and he wished us well.

Once in Mexico we kept in touch with Rob for almost a year. So this spring (2015, ed.) we returned to Canada to begin our volunteer program for May and June, and met the rest of the team of Presqu'ile Park.

In these two months we helped to set up the Nature Centre, from washing a carpet to collecting the specimens on display in the tanks. We also had the opportunity to observe and check very quickly a collection of books on topics of reptiles and amphibians, birds, mammals, insects, and more.

We also took a two-day job-training course with other young people who were employed for summer jobs at the park. (This was the usual H&S, WDHP, WHIMIS, etc. that all staff get annually, ed.) Although English is not our first language we thought we pass the exams (They did quite well, ed.).

This kind of training was different for us because Mexico is little practiced in this type of course and

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aspects like needing a certificate to use certain equipment, use of safety equipment, and the number of signs needed in the areas of labour, materials and labour hazards that exist, were new to us.

We also helped the Bio staff to plant trees in the greenhouse, such as Birch, Elm, and Oak. Steve taught us a lot about the plants growing in Presqu'ile as well as the migratory birds that come to the park in the summer and the ones that live in the park all the year.

We also cleaned the three beaches, which was very pleasant because we found almost no garbage. We had the opportunity to help in "the Turtle Project" for the protection of turtles that cross the park roads (renovating a space for their nests). That day we crossed path with Sean Boyle (Laurentian Ph.D. candidate, ed.) who works with turtles in the park.

We spent a day dedicated to walking the trails and soon realized that the park is really huge! The trails we liked most were the Jobses' Woods Trail. It is perhaps one of the most peaceful and interesting trails, but if you are like us, you like a more adventurous feeling trail, then the Pioneer Trail is the best choice. That's where we saw snakes, small and colorful birds, lots of chipmunks (which for us are very charismatic), traces of medium-sized mammals, trees and small flowers, also mosses and weird mushrooms.

We learned that the Canadian culture of preserving a natural area goes beyond just having the land in good condition and protect species. It also involves information of flora and fauna. You can have a very interactive visit, and the park maintenance involves many people working together.

Here in Canada camping culture is almost a tradition. Observing wildlife is almost an everyday occurrence. The many park activities go hand in hand with the environmental aspects of animals and

MEXICO

Find out more about Mexico and its many National Parks. There are 67 federally recognized national parks and they cover nearly 1.5 million hectares (0.73% of the land area of Mexico).

Canada's 38 National Parks and 8 Reserves cover 30 million hectares (3% of our total land area). Canadian provinces and territories are responsible for their own provincial parks and conservation areas.

Most regular visitors to Presqu'ile have heard about the migration of the Monarch butterfly. They make the spectacular journey to the forests of western central Mexico (more than 4000 kms) where they spend their winter hibernating in clusters in small areas of the **Reserva de la Biosfera Mariposa Monarca** (a nature preserve that covers more than 518 sq.km.).

Suggested links:

www.visitmexico.com/en/nature-and-ecotourism-in-mexico
www.mexonline.com/natlpark.htm

plants, and we think that one of the most important things is the aspects of tolerance and respect shown on the job.

We had the opportunity to visit the place with which we identify perhaps more. The famous "ISLAND", where forest restoration work and monitoring of birds for the recovery of this ecosystem is on-going.

Our last day in the park was very emotional for us, as we feel sad to leave the park that opened its doors to us and every single person we met made us feel welcome throughout our stay; Allyson, Laura, Kristen, Rachel, David, Don, Mike, Steve, the other Steve, Rob, Gary, Jack, Brian, Matt, Phil (Peterborough offices of Ontario Parks), to name a few. We are very happy to have had the opportunity to collaborate in Presqu'ile Park... for us, the most special Park.

Thanks to every one... We'll be back!

Your Mexican Friends
Paula Calzada & Ivan Cruces

SPONSORS



STRONGER COMMUNITIES TOGETHER™



Become a friend of The Friends

Whether you are new to the area or have lived here for some time, we would love to have you share our appreciation of the Park.

Volunteers are the key to The Friends of Presqu'ile Park. We are totally run by volunteers, so we rely on our members and friends to help with projects, committees, and fundraising events.

Some volunteer activities require only a couple of hours, once or twice a year; others ask more of your time. Your involvement is up to you.

Here are some volunteer opportunities available now:

- ◆ Summer barbecue helpers
- ◆ The Friends' Lighthouse Gift Shop helpers
- ◆ Promoting The Friends and the work that we do at events such as Brighton History Open House, Applefest, E-Waste Day, etc
- ◆ Perhaps you would enjoy greeting visitors at the Nature Centre or the Lighthouse Interpretive Centre. We have opportunities for volunteers on Wednesdays throughout the summer. Spend a half day or, if you can spare the time, a whole day meeting and talking with visitors.

There are so many ways you can support The Friends' educational and environmental initiatives.

Contact us by e-mail at info@friendsofpresquile.on.ca; and to learn more about volunteering, please telephone **Nancy Sutton**, our Volunteer Coordinator, at **613 475 9817**.



BRIGHTON'S 4th HISTORY OPEN HOUSE February 20, 2016

The Friends have had a lot of fun joining in on this weekend of celebration of history in and around Brighton. There certainly is a lot to learn.

We have been part of this event every year. Our volunteers set up our display and enjoy sharing with visitors the history of The Friends and of Presqu'ile Park.

We held a raffle for an Ontario Park's Annual Pass and the winner is **Lindi Pierce** of Belleville. She posted the following on her website:

'... As soon as I arrived at home, I received a call from a lovely woman who informed me that my tiny contribution toward a ticket won me a Provincial Parks season pass! (Considering that we have 8 or 9 weeks of PP camping planned for this summer, it will get good use.) So, thanks Friends of Presqu'ile! If you have ever enjoyed this outstanding provincial park, you will have tasted some of the fruit of this group's hard work - from the magnificent boardwalk, to the NHE programs, to the tree-planting and trail maintenance. And if you have, you ought to become a member, and give back a wee bit in return.'

Congratulations, Lindi, and thanks for supporting us.

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

Welcome to Tim Lawley

I am pleased to announce, on behalf of the Board of Directors, the election of Tim Lawley as a new Director. In the fall of last year, Tim and various Board Members reviewed the Board of Directors and Committee Package, and at the January 2016 Board Meeting Tim was elected to fill a vacant Board position as called for in By-Law # 88-1 – 17.

Tim's experience on other Boards, along with his organizational and computer skills, are being well used as he fulfills the essential role of 'Archivist', maintaining proper files, both electronic and paper, as required by the Canada Revenue Agency and the Ontario Corporations Act, and of course guiding the organization through carrying out of his Director's responsibilities.

Please join me in congratulating Tim for taking on this additional volunteer role with The Friends.

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

Tim introduces himself

My outside-of-work interests have been with 'nature' and 'outdoor' orientated organisations, namely the Bruce Trail Association, Oak Ridges Trail Association, Northumberland Land Trust, and the Willow Beach Field Naturalists.

For me, volunteer work with these organisations has been directed towards the preservation of the natural surroundings with the added aim of making nature accessible for people to safely enjoy.

My introduction to Presqu'ile Provincial Park and The Friends has been through volunteering as a Trail Monitor; clearing of Scots Pine, and building boardwalks. These experiences gave me the belief that this marvelous Park, with its unique setting, deserved a special effort to help in its preservation. I found that the best way to direct this effort was to support The Friends of Presqu'ile Park and all of its volunteering opportunities.

Tim Lawley



Photo: Selfy

Buy your Bushnell Optics Raffle tickets at the Lighthouse Interpretive Centre.

The draw will be held at the end of Warblers and Whimbrels Weekend at 4:00 pm, on Sunday, May 22, 2016.

Tickets are \$2 each, 3 for \$5.

Bushnell Binoculars

Spotting Scope and Tripod

When you next visit Presqu'ile Park, be sure to pick up your copy of the

Presqu'ile 2016 Information Guide,

printed by **Willow Publishing, Brighton.**

We thank all of the local businesses and organizations who have sponsored this publication. Please, show your appreciation by giving them your business.

The Guide is full of many interesting articles about The Friends of Presqu'ile and the Park. It is available on our website. Please follow this link:

www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca/presquile-park-information-guide.php



Thank you for being a Friend of Presqu'ile Park.

E-WASTE DAY A GREAT SUCCESS

A great environmental project came our way from **Matt Higgs**, marketing director of **Quinte Mall** in Belleville. As a public service, the Mall partnered with **Ontario Electronic Stewardship** and offered the community a free drop-off day for e-waste.

The event, held on Saturday, April 9, was the Mall's second e-waste collection. The first, in September 2015, collected six tonnes of electronic waste.

In the parking lot, 12 keen volunteers helped with the lifting and loading of literally hundreds of old TVs, cell phones, and all sorts of recorders, players, cameras, etc. into huge containers, 10 tonnes in all. Vehicles lined up 10-deep to deliver e-waste to the containers and by mid-afternoon a 3rd container was almost half full.

Inside the Mall, other volunteers from The Friends set up our display near the food court. They did a great job of explaining the role of The Friends of Presqu'ile Park and promoting the Park.

What was in it for us, besides helping the environment? Well, Ontario Electronic Stewardship makes a payment based on weight and the Mall kindly donates this to a not-for-profit environmental group.

And so, on Tuesday, April 26, Matt Higgs was able to hand over to The Friends of Presqu'ile Park a cheque for \$1953.60. **Rita and John Robbescheuten**, who were among the volunteers helping out on E-Waste Day, kindly attended the presentation and accepted the cheque on behalf of The Friends.

"We couldn't be happier with the community participation for this event," said Matt Higgs, marketing director for Quinte Mall.

"It's great to see not only the environmental win by keeping these items out of landfill, but also a local environmental charity benefit so they can continue on their mission of conserving our natural world."

'Thank you' to all of the volunteers from The Friends and to the Quinte Mall for thinking of us.

The environment wins and, with this donation, The Friends will be able to do more for Presqu'ile Park. A win-win for sure.



Above Photos: David Cutler



Matt Higgs, left, marketing director of Quinte Mall and Erin Graham, right, marketing co-ordinator for Quinte Mall, present a cheque for \$1,953.60 to Rita and John Robbescheuten, representing Friends of Presqu'ile Park. Photo: Quinte Mall

A Road to Conservation: Update

By the end of April, 2016, we should have purchased the remaining turtle fencing and selected our contractor for the installation. The installation contractor will be asked to involve The Friends members if possible.

In the December 2015 edition of The Beacon, we reported that installation of the first tunnel had begun. Since then, the second tunnel has been installed.



Leopard Frogs and other species will benefit from the wildlife tunnels. Photo: David Bree

Our ongoing commitment to this project is providing support through funding. The Friends have been in regular contact with the **Brighton Rotary Club**, over a period of months, who had informed us that they might be able to help.

Chair Steve Sinclair made two presentations to the Rotary Club and, at their March 4 meeting, he told members that "The entire project is about \$300,000." He also covered the details of the project, including

timescales and the other donors. (Ontario Parks are making a significant contribution.)

Very Generous Donation from Brighton Rotary Club



The result is that the Brighton Rotary Club has given a very generous donation of \$25,000 from their fund, the Henry Hayes Memorial Fund. We will be using this to purchase over a kilometre of special fencing which keeps the reptiles and amphibians off the road but allows them to escape from it should they somehow get there.

The Ministry of Natural Resources has approved our grant application in the amount of \$30,000 from the **Species at Risk Stewardship Fund** for the purchase of fencing for Habitat Reconnectivity.

These funds will ensure that the project is done and is done professionally. Work is to be completed this year, with research to continue into 2017 to determine if the solution recommended by scientists has been as effective as they have anticipated.

Pete Alker



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

Natural Heritage Education staff - ready to greet you once again in 2016

This year's NHE staff will be a mix of old and new. Back this year are stalwarts, **Allyson Parker**, **Laura McClintock** and **Kristen Osborne**, along with **Natasha Lewis**, **Vivienne Wu**, and **Rachel Revoy**.

The new? We don't know yet, but interviews are ongoing and I am sure the new fresh faces will bring the same enthusiasm to the job that all NHE folks show.

This year we plan on introducing a **History Cart** along with our **Critter Cart** to bring stories of Presqu'ile's past directly to our visitors. Keep an eye out for it and all our NHE staff this summer and please come over and say hi.

David Bree, Sr. Natural Heritage Education Leader



Laura McClintock talking to a group on the Marsh Boardwalk

Photo: David Bree

Did you know that 98% of visitors say that a Park visit reduces stress?

The Website and Social Media Facebook and Twitter

At a number of meetings during 2015, the Communications Team discussed whether The Friends should be using social media. While the rest of the world embraced it, we questioned it for a whole number of reasons, some which Ontario Parks were concerned about and some that we, The Friends, were worried about.



Communications team: Jenny and Pete Alker, David Bree, Don Boucher and (seated) Fletch, meet with Anne MacLachlan (Ontario Parks) Photo: Don Tyerman

At our January 2016 meeting, the majority of our time was devoted to understanding and discussing Ontario Parks' use of social media and how Presqu'ile Park and The Friends of Presqu'ile can benefit/use it.

The session was led by Anne MacLachlan, from Ontario Parks' main office. She covered a number of topics: development of their marketing strategy, the transfer of part of the focus from traditional marketing to an electronic approach, and the results that are being delivered.

The use and mechanics of using both Facebook and Twitter and whether we were looking at two platforms

(one for Ontario Parks and one for The Friends) or a single combined Park/The Friends were discussed in detail.

Given the benefits and coverage that other Parks are now experiencing, and the fact that there were sites appearing which looked as though they were our official site, we concluded:

To recommend that the Park and The Friends would operate a collaborative single Facebook page which would also automatically load to a Twitter account and vice versa. So anyone logging onto either The Friends or Parks Facebook/Twitter platforms would go to the same pages.

The benefits are: plentiful content, managed so that duplication of effort is eliminated. The site would also be loaded with information being cascaded down from head office. The management of the site would be under the watchful eyes of Ontario Parks head office, who would also provide training and support.

So Presqu'ile Park is now on both and you can go to us directly via <https://www.facebook.com/PresquilePP> and <https://twitter.com/PresquilePP> or via the logos now on the home page of The Friends' website.

We will continue to use The Friends' website as our main focus for information and details of events and facts about us and the Park. The two social platforms will send out sound bites and will point you to where you can find out more on the website.

*Pete Alker,
Communications and Public Relations*

Would you like to contribute to The Friends' website?

Your comments and contributions are always welcome.

Do you have any photographs that you have taken in Presqu'ile?

We hope that you will share them with us. If you have a suggested caption or if would you like to add a background story with each photo, that would be appreciated.

Contact us at [**info@friendsofpresquile.on.ca**](mailto:info@friendsofpresquile.on.ca)

Thank you for being a Friend

Membership of The Friends offers a great opportunity to support your community and have fun through our Volunteer Program. You can participate a lot, or just a little. It all depends on what suits you.

If you would like to volunteer in any way, please complete the Volunteer section of the Membership form which you can find through this page: www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca/how-to-join-us.php.

The fee for Family Membership remains at \$20. The added benefits include: discounts on selected items in The Friends' Lighthouse Gift Shop, and early entry to our Christmas at Presqu'ile Arts and Crafts Show. Also,

members are allowed to vote at our Annual General Meeting.

This year's AGM will be held on June 4 and I look forward to seeing you there.



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.

*Maureen O'Connor,
Membership/Donation Coordinator*

SUMMER BARBEQUES

Come to The Friends' fundraising Summer BBQs, every Saturday, from Canada Day weekend until Labour Day weekend, from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm.



**HAMBURGERS,
SAUSAGES, HOT DOGS,
PEAMEAL BACON,
... and much more.**



You will find us in the Campground area at Presqu'ile Park, between the Amphitheatre and the parking lot, beside the lake.



All proceeds from our BBQs go towards The Friends' programs in the Park.
Telephone 613 475 1688 www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca



The Lighthouse Gift Shop is up and running once again

Now is the time to stop by as we have several new items, as well as an excellent selection of clothing, jewellery, stuffed animals, books, educational toys, and collectables.

This year we are featuring the work of **Doug Comeau** and **Linda Barber** in our Art Gallery. Do take the time to enjoy their art.

On your next visit to the Park, be sure to drop in.

We are open during Warblers and Whimbrels Weekend, most weekends during the spring, and of course, every day in July and August.

Need more information? Please call **Joyce Boucher** at **613 475 1688**.

100% of PROCEEDS of Gift Shop sales remain in Presqu'ile Park to further the Park's educational objectives.

Volunteers wanted ... a sense of humour is essential ...

We are grateful for whatever time and skills you are able to give.

Report from Waterfowl Weekend - March 19 and 20

Presqu'ile Waterfowl Weekend, 2016 version, occurred March 19 and 20. Unlike the freezing conditions of the last two years, this winter was quite mild and Presqu'ile Bay opened up all the way to the end before the 19th.

This makes seeing ducks a bit more challenging as they are scattered well out into the bay. Luckily we had great weather, great exhibitors, and great volunteers to make the weekend an enjoyable success for our visitors.

Over 1500 people visited this year and many stopped at both the Nature Centre and Lighthouse Centre to take in the activities at both locations. Thanks to taxidermist Steve Dingman, carver and photographer Gary McPherson, and artist Sherrie Grieg for their displays at the Nature Centre.



Spotting waterfowl with a Friend

Photo: G Cortez

spotting scopes were available for people to appreciate the variety present.

Waterfowl migration here is a world-class natural phenomenon that is a memorable event. This year memories were made, but I think many will involve the many smiling volunteers, from Nancy Sutton, Volunteer Coordinator, and her crew at the gate right through to Jack Scott flipping hamburgers.

Thank you all for those memories.

*David Bree,
Sr. Natural Heritage Education Leader*



G Cortez jr at craft table, Waterfowl Weekend 2016
Photo: G Cortez

We also had a number of other volunteers there helping the kids with their crafts and scavenger hunt. Special mention goes to Anne McPherson, who jumped in to help at the last minute on Saturday morning when the scheduled volunteer came down sick.

The Lighthouse Interpretive Centre continues to be a hub of activity and thanks go to The Friends' BBQ crew, artists Linda Barber and Doug Comeau, and the Bushnell representative, Dave Richards.

The Friends had numerous other volunteers down there selling raffle tickets, cookies, and coffee, and helping in The Friends' Lighthouse Gift Shop. Of course, that whole building runs smoothly every year under the tutelage of Joyce and Don Boucher.

Ducks were present; probably 7000 out in the bay, and the volunteers at the viewing stations did a great job showing people what was there, though it was a good thing the

please mark your calendar ...



Warblers and Whimbrels Weekend - May 21 and 22

What a strange winter and spring we have had! The best analogy I can think of is a yo-yo. One day -20°C, two days later +5°C. Almost no ice on the bay at all this winter and then snow in April!

I certainly can't predict what weather is coming but a year like this does show you that you can't take anything for granted. When a nice day shows up, one should do everything one can to get outside and enjoy nature.

As I write this, it does feel as if spring has truly arrived. The sun is shining and the pannes are full of water and the frogs are going full out.

The Leopard Frogs in particular are giving the best chorus of that species I've ever heard. Also of note are the Wood Frogs along Jobes' Woods Trail. The boardwalk along this trail gives you the best chance of actually seeing a frog calling.

When you walk up to where the Wood Frogs are calling, they fall silent and sink below the surface of the water. But if you wait quietly, after a few minutes, they will pop back up and soon start singing again. They have two air-sacs, one on either side of their head, rather than just one under their chin. Look for the ripples on the water's surface to see where they are.

And of course the birds are becoming more active. Goldfinches have started singing and it won't be long before we are blessed with an influx of our migrating songbirds. It is this May influx of our songbirds that really means spring for many of us, particularly the bird watchers.

That is where Presqu'ile Park's **Warblers and Whimbrels Weekend** (May 21 and 22) comes in. It is scheduled to take advantage of this wave of migrants and has a number of events designed to assist people in identifying and appreciating our many migrants.

An early morning bird walk is scheduled for the Lighthouse Centre at 6:30 am. For those that want to start a little later, we will have another walk at 10:00 am. At 2:00 pm we will have a guided walk along the Owen Point Trail to look for shorebirds, and anything else along the way.

In addition to migrating birds moving through this area, some of these birds coming in call the Park home for the summer and should be starting their nest-building activities by this weekend. Warbling Vireo, Purple Martins, Redstarts, and Baltimore Orioles, to name just a few, usually have nests around the lighthouse and we can usually find some.



Rose-breasted Grosbeaks are just one of the 100+ species of birds that migrate through Presqu'ile in May Photo: D Bree



Elizabeth Kellogg bands a Black-and-White Warbler Photo: K Anderson

We are also very fortunate to once again have Elizabeth Kellogg and Roger Frost present to demonstrate the art of bird-banding and allow visitors to get some close looks at our feathered friends. They will be banding in the Owen Point Trail parking lot, between 8:00 am and noon, weather permitting. (Unlike birding, banding cannot be carried out in the rain, as it is too hard on the birds.)

The Park's Lighthouse Interpretive Centre and The Friends' Gift Shop will be open both days, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. The Friends will be running their fundraising BBQ starting at 11:00 am. All events go on both days at the same times.

This is the last weekend to get your raffle tickets for the Bushnell Raffle. There are two great prizes: a fine binocular and a scope set.

So come on out and enjoy a Presqu'ile Spring.

*David Bree,
Sr. Natural Heritage Education Leader*

Please support our 2016 Raffle – tickets will be available after Warblers and Whimbrels Weekend, at the end of May.



The Friends of Presqu'ile Park's
2016 RAFFLE



ENJOY THE PARK

WIN one of four fabulous prizes

1st Prize: 2 nights' stay in Clarke/Denson Cottage, Presqu'ile Park
- spring or fall during 2017

2nd Prize: Annual Ontario Parks' Pass - 2017/8

3rd Prize: 1 week at Kids 'n Nature Summer Day Camp - 2017

4th Prize: 2 nights' camping on a hydro site - 2017



Clarke-Denson Cottage



2017 Annual Pass



Kids 'n Nature
Summer Camp 2017



Camping on a hydro site in Presqu'ile

Tickets: **\$2** each, **3/\$5**, or **10/\$10**

available from members of The Friends, our Saturday Summer BBQs,
and at The Lighthouse Interpretive Centre.

The draw will be held at The Lighthouse Interpretive Centre,
at 4:00 pm on Sunday, October 9, 2016.

All funds raised are used in support of The Friends' projects in Presqu'ile Provincial Park.

For tickets and more information call 613 475 1688 or visit www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca

Licence No: M 713364

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2016

(Calendar is subject to change — please check our website to confirm dates and information.)

May 21 and 22: Warblers and Whimbrels Weekend, starting at 6:30 am

View the elusive Whimbrels 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 their fundraising BBQ lunch at the Lighthouse Centre, 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 4: The Friends' Annual General Meeting at Stonehedge

Members meet for coffee at 10 am. AGM will begin at 10:30 am, followed by our lunch.

June 11 and 18: Spring Walks

Guided nature walks on Saturday. Check out our website for more information and for when The Lighthouse Interpretive Centre and The Friends' Gift Shop will be open.

July 1 to September 5: Summer Interpretive Program

Programs will be posted on our website, 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 fundraising BBQs, near the amphitheatre, from 11:00 am. The Nature Centre, Lighthouse Interpretive Centre, and The Friends' Gift Shop will be open daily.

July 11 to 15 (Water World): Kids 'n Nature Summer Day Camp, 8- to 14-year-old boys and girls

FULL
FULL

July 25 to 29 (Super Survival): Kids 'n Nature Summer Day Camp, 8- to 14-year-old boys and girls

July 29 to 31: History Weekend, 10:00 am to 10:00 pm

Relive Presqu'ile's storied past and take part in events. See War of 1812-14 re-enactments. Participate in old-fashioned field games, children's boat-building bee and regatta, ghost walks, a history play, and more.

August 8 to 12 (Forest Adventures): Kids 'n Nature Summer Day Camp, 8- to 14-year-old boys and girls

August 22 to 26 (Shipwrecks and Pirates): Kids 'n Nature Summer Day Camp, 8- to 14-year-old boys and girls

FULL

September 3 and 4: Monarchs and Migrants Weekend, starting at 8:00 am

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

September 10 to 24: Fall Interpretive Program

Friday video presentations and guided hikes on select weekends. Check our website for more information and for when The Lighthouse Interpretive Centre and The Friends' Gift Shop will be open.

November 5 and 6, 9, 12 and 13: 25th Christmas at Presqu'ile Juried 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. Our signature artists will be on hand at the Lighthouse Art Gallery, 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.

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 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.

Mail copy to **The Friends of Presqu'ile Park** at: **PO Box 1442, Brighton ON, K0K 1H0**
or e-mail: info@friendsofpresquile.on.ca

Edited by Jenny Alker. Thanks to all of our contributors, and to Fred Helleiner, for their help with *The Beacon*.