



Editor's Message

So far the climate hasn't been very cooperative for outdoor winter activities, but I'm sure that the County weather won't disappoint us for much longer!

Warton Willie's spring forecast suggests that we will be in for six more weeks of winter, so there should be enough time to enjoy snowshoeing and cross-country skiing in the Park under its customary winter cloak of pristine snow!

Updates to the website have been moving along. In addition to more in-depth articles about the geology and history of the area, several photo albums of Friends' events and [recent aerial images](#) are now available. More to follow!

For our most recent updates, please bookmark the ["What's New" Page](#) on our website.

We welcome your ideas for upcoming articles, or better still, please consider submitting an article yourself!

I know we have a number of members with far more County knowledge than my own! Please tell us your stories!

And a gentle reminder that annual memberships are due on March 31st. We have initiated a common membership fee for both individual and family members of \$15.00/year.

While this does represent an increase for single members, families get a much better deal! Aside from supporting your Friends' many projects in the Park, that membership gives you a 10% discount on all merchandise in our Nature Shop! Stock up on T-shirts for Mother's Day!

We are in the process of instituting an online-payment service for memberships, but you can find [the hard-copy form on our website](#).

www.friendsofsandbanks.org/forms/FoSB_Membership_Form_2016.pdf

Please contact me with any ideas, submissions, comments or complaints at: media_relations@friendsofsandbanks.org

John A. Brebner
Editor etc.



Above: West Lake Dunes, Image 16-0564



Lakeland Lodge site; Image 16-0551



Entrance to Dunes Beach, 16-0576a

Upcoming Events...

February 15th, 1220 - 1530

Annual Family Day Snowfest

Maple Rest Heritage House, County Road 12

May 8th, Mother's Day, 1000 - 1600

Well-known Park Naturalist Yvette Bree will conduct two nature walks; at 1000 the walk will feature birds, at 1400 the focus will be on wildflowers.

Meet at the Park Visitor Centre/Nature Shop

(Members are most welcome to join us at any Board Meeting, [please let us know if you'd like to attend](#))



Mark Despault

Chairman's Message

I want to express my appreciation to all the Friends' members for supporting the many projects that the Friends of Sandbanks undertake at the park. This is been a banner year, especially for trail development and upgrading.

By supplying both financial support and good old volunteer labour, we have been able to complete many of our project goals, including the improvement of the Woodlands Trail as well as the completion of the Lakeview Trail.

I am writing this note after spending a fabulous, crisp winter afternoon skiing on some of the newest trails that the park has been able to develop with the help of the Friends of Sandbanks. Once the snow appears, the park transforms into a winter wonderland. Park staff despatch the snowmobile and track setter and groom several kilometres of park trails for cross-country skiing. Don't have skis? Not to worry, there are plenty of great spots to explore on either on foot or with snowshoes.

Many hectares of seedlings were planted in fields destined to be reforested, including several protected areas where butternut stands are being established.

Mark will be on [County FM 99.3](#) discussing our upcoming Family Day Snowfest on Thursday, February 11th between 1220 and 1230.

If you miss the broadcast, we will have a link on our webpage shortly afterwards.



Biking on the Lakeview Trail, Image 15-9726

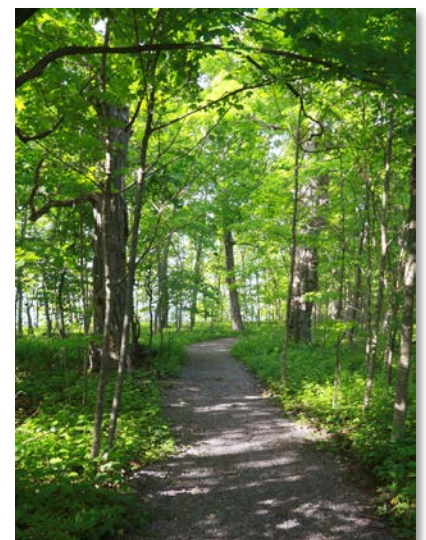
I am proud of the achievements of the Friends of Sandbanks and look forward to being involved in the many projects planned for the upcoming year. As you read this newsletter, perhaps you will find an event or activity that interests you. If so, please feel free to [contact us for more information](#) about how you and your family can get involved.

On behalf of the Friends of Sandbanks Board of Directors, I wish you all the best and hope to see you either at the Park at some of our 2016 events, or enjoying one of our new trails!

*Mark Despault, Chair
Friends of Sandbanks Park*



*Setting out on the Dunes Trail;
Image 16-0575*



*Leafy glade on the Lakeview Trail;
Image 14-1416*

Volunteering with the Friends

The Friends of Sandbanks relies solely on volunteers to accomplish all the work done to support Sandbanks Provincial Park. There are many current activities where volunteers work and would love to have your help.

As the park staff identify possible areas for Friends involvement, the board considers if it fits with our mandate and then examines how best to proceed.

[The board meets monthly and is open for any members to attend.](#) As a board member you could help determine how our budget is spent. Should we plant more trees, improve signs and brochures, lengthen trails, improve bird habitat, protect reptiles, research butterfly populations? These are all options that our board examines.

In addition, the board members themselves are active on committees working to raise money, and provide the public with information and activities highlighting Sandbanks many natural assets.

The Friends' Nature Shop has been a major source of revenue for us, and enables the Friends to contribute financially to the Park.



Sandbanks New Waves, 2015; Image 15-0984



Butternut tree winter preparation, Image 15-2018



The Visitor Centre/Nature Shop; Image 14-0744



Interior of Nature Shop, Image 13-6514

But our shop needs volunteers to find unique merchandise that will sell, and sell at a fair price, and folks to acquire, price and present it!

It involves some time deciding on items and quantities starting in late January. But the hardest work is over by mid-May.

Duties are much lighter during the summer when the actual selling and re-stocking are mainly handled by the [National Heritage Education \(NHE\)](#) staff.

And then there's a brief October inventory. But by that time you're an expert!

We could always use more help during this shop process, and suggestions for new inventory are always welcome.

Education about the Sandbanks Park is one of the Friends' prime objectives.

Accordingly, our publication, *Sandscapes*, produced in 2012 has been very well received. For anyone wanting to learn about the full history of the Sandbanks Park, this is one of the most comprehensive and useful books about the area.

continued overleaf, page 4



Lakeshore Lodge Days; 15-9824



Don Metcalf and Hannah Maracle; 15-8138



Fun Run volunteer Charles Lacey; 15-1253

Volunteering with the Friends, continued

The Fun Run has been "running" for over 20 years organized with the Friends including many volunteers to help out for a September run that showcases the Sandbanks Park.

The hours of Friends' time become worthwhile when the tired runners always find the time to thank the volunteers!

The Sandbanks' Fall Getaway Run is known for the best location, the best (and most) prizes, the unique T-shirts, good weather (nearly always) and the best organization with the friendliest volunteers. Your participation in the 10km Fun Run also qualifies you for the Terry Fox Run.

With large tracts of previously worked farmland to be returned to a natural habitat, the Friends have been heavily invested in planting thousands of trees in the park. To give them the best chance of survival we initiated two areas as tree nurseries for the endangered butternuts.

There is an annual spring planting and summer and fall cleanup, and winter protection for these trees... and you can help us!

Have fun while volunteering at Snowfest, Sandfest or Lakeshore Lodge Days. We also help at Theatre in the Park and New Waves concerts and are always on the look-out for more fund-raising ideas to assist in our many projects that help make the Sandbanks Park a better place for all Canadians.

Do you have an idea how we can help make a Sandbanks project come true? Please let us know!

To receive a grant, there is always writing to be done. Any talent that you have will be eagerly welcomed!

Sell some raffle tickets!

Please consider donating a prize for either the Raffle or the Fun Run if you can't donate your time!

New ideas and more hands can only improve what we are trying to accomplish... a better Park!

The Friends would love to have your expertise added to their Board!

Penny Sipkes

Want to help... [email us right now!](#)

[Donations are tax deductible... and can be made securely online!](#)

Sandbanks Research in The County, *Part One*

Prince Edward County is very fortunate to have a remarkable number of historical resources that provide both a wide selection of textual material as well as a great selection of archival photographs.

The County is also blessed with a bounty of local authors whose expertise in the area's history, geology, flora and fauna is unparalleled.

There are many well-springs of information, from physical books and hands-on museums to an ever-increasing number of internet resources for anyone researching Prince Edward County.

But in this first, short article, I'd like to focus (pun intended!) on the collections of images available from the [Prince Edward County Archives](#) in Wellington.

Located at 261 Main Street, Wellington, just east of the town's centre and only traffic light, this facility is the place to go for County history.

It's located just behind the main library building.

Managed by knowledgeable archivist [Krista Richardson](#), (613.399.2023), the centre is open the same hours as the library:

Tuesday 12:00pm – 7:00pm

Wednesday 10:00am – 4:00pm

Thursday 1:00pm – 5:00pm

Friday 10:00am – 4:00pm

Saturday 10:00am – 4:00pm

On those rare days in the County when the weather precludes exploring the Dunes, it's a delight to spend a few hours poring over the wealth of local history housed within this historic building.

The images shown here are all courtesy of the PEC Archives, and show the West Lake sandbar at a time when reforestation plans had been initiated in the late 1920's. The photographer is unknown, but may have been conservationist Arthur Herbert Richardson, who had been hired by the province to stop the sand drift over valuable farm lands that had started in the 1850's after farmers had removed much of the original protective vegetation.

John A. Brebner
February, 2016



Across the pannes; Image 12-1967



Early snow fencing, wooden fences; Image 12-1982



Willow planting; Image 12-1936



Early pine planting; Image 12-3102

Click on any image to download full-size version.

Science Corner... Did You Know?

Those small shells found on the West Lake Bar are 800 ± 15 years old!

I was curious about their age, and had them carbon- tested at the Centre Nordique in Laval last summer. They died about 1200 AD in a part of West Lake that was likely underwater at the time.



Image 12-1031



Image 13-7402

What's in a Name?

A common problem that arises while researching the history of any area is the variety of place names that one encounters. Here are a few from the Sandbanks area... do you know of any others? [Please let us know!](#)



Image 16-0590, base layer © Google Earth, composite image © 2016 John A. Brebner

What's New, Fall 2015

- Tree wrapping of butternut seedlings
- Annual General Meeting 2015
- Festival of Trees

Coming soon: Friends 2016 Raffle tickets...
Win a paddleboard!



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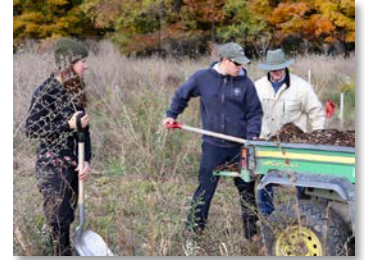
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Tree wrapping; Image 15-1986



Tree wrapping; Image 15-1997



Tree wrapping;
Image 15-1999



Annual General Meeting 2015; Image 15-2268



Festival of Trees; Image 15-2068



Festival of Trees; Image 15-2075



Festival of Trees; Image 15-2079



Festival of Trees; Image 15-2073



Festival of Trees; Image 15-2104



Festival of Trees; Image 15-2188

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View of West Lake Bar from site of Lakeshore Lodge, c 1910?, Image 16-0539 (Queen's University Archives, collection of George Vosper, photographer unknown).

This is a composite of two side-by-side images in this collection donated to the [Queen's University Archives by the estate of George Vosper](#). The images are unattributed, and were found in a home at 30 William Street, Kingston.

Contact Us:

by mail: ***Friends of Sandbanks***
P.O. Box 22007, 97 Main Street
Picton, ON K0K 0A0

email: media_relations@friendsofsandbanks.org

Visit us:

Website: friendsofsandbanks.org

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Janet Mooney	Director, Nature Shop Co-Manager
Neil Sipkes	Membership Coordinator
John Brebner	Newsletter and Media Relations

Join us:

Want to join? It's only \$15.00/year for general membership!

Online application form coming soon... [printed form is available on our website...](#)

You'll receive this quarterly emailed Newsletter, and a 10% discount at our Nature Shop in the Park!

Registered Canadian Charity:

The Friends of Sandbanks Park
BN: 893935767RR001

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