



Working with the Park to make it an even better place to visit

Editor's Message

Months of winter, a slow spring (such as it was!) and now torrid summer weather passing into fall!

I must apologize for the tardiness of this second newsletter of the year. Originally scheduled for early June publication, the warm summer weather has kept me away from my computer and enjoying as much outdoor time by the breezes of Lake Ontario as possible.

I am becoming more comfortable with my many roles in the Friends' organization. Photography, video, webpage, Facebook, newsletters, and responding to numerous website queries as well as simply walking the dunes and beaches, talking with both tourists and residents, but mostly just enjoying this wonderful spot, take up much of my time in the County!

In a season at the Sandbanks, I make over 4000 images, from Friends' events, to close-up images of the fascinating and varied wildlife in the area, and this year, to collecting digital copies of images of the early pioneers in the area, their homesteads and gravesites.

For over three years as part of this organization, I have met a number of fascinating and talented local residents who have a wealth of local knowledge and history about the early Sandbanks area.

If you, or anyone you know has old photographs that we could digitize (no charge!) for our ongoing collection, please let us know.

And of course, if you would like to contribute a short article for either our newsletter or website, we'd be more than happy to hear from you!

John A. Brebner, Editor



Near the Lakeshore Lodge Site; Image 16-4771

Upcoming Events...

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 17 th September 2016 | Sandbanks Music Fest |
| 18 th September 2016 | Sandbanks Fall Getaway Fun Run |

Board Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month in the basement of the Park Office.

We welcome any newcomers, especially those who might be able to contribute some time to help with our many activities! No experience necessary!

[\(Please let us know if you'd like to attend\)](#)

Not yet a Friends of Sandbanks Member? Join us at:

friendsofsandbanks.org/forms/FoSB_Membership_Form_2016.pdf

"Spring has sprung, the grass has ris, I wonder where the birdies is!"

What has happened to spring!? We seem to be paying for our milder than normal winter with a very slow-developing spring. The birds do seem to be coming back on schedule and the grass *is* growing – I saw my first lawnmower in action a week ago.

Where we are really behind is with the wildflowers and trees. Coltsfoot, Dutchman's Breeches and Bloodroot have begun flowering in Prince Edward County, but I haven't seen any yet at Sandbanks. "Cooler by the lake" is never more obvious than in spring, when I wait impatiently for Sandbanks' first wildflowers. Trees are just beginning to show their buds now, which can actually be a positive thing from my point of view, as returning songbirds aren't yet hidden behind sprouting leaves .

Three species of Wood Warblers have already been spotted at Sandbanks. These bright jewels flit their way through the forests, picking midges from spiders' webs and practising their breeding calls. On migration from points further south, most of them will only be here for a short while before they continue on to their nesting grounds north of us. Not as high on the "pretty bird" list are several sparrow species, that are most easily separated from each other by their distinctive calls. Many of these birds will stay all year, breeding in the fields scattered throughout the park.

There are other signs of spring. Spring Peepers, Western Chorus Frogs and Wood Frogs have all begun calling and breeding. I'm sure that others will join them soon! And a few butterflies have also been seen. The earliest is usually the chocolate-coloured Mourning Cloak, which overwinters as an adult. I was surprised this year by a Comma Butterfly as my first Lepidoptera sighting.

With Mother's Day and our annual bird and wildflower walks, I look forward to more birds returning to Sandbanks. Over twenty species of wood warblers can easily be seen, along with other spectacular, colourful birds like Scarlet Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings. Trilliums, trout lilies, violets, bellworts and other wildflowers always emerge in time for us to enjoy their vibrant displays.

Spring will come - I'm sure of it!

Yvette Bree, Park Naturalist

My apologies to Yvette for the delay in publishing her spring article!

John A. Brebner, Editor



Scarlet Tanager, 16-0983 (Image courtesy Yvette Bree)



Trout Lily, 16-0982 (Image courtesy Yvette Bree)



Red Trillium 16-0981 (Image courtesy Yvette Bree)



Wood Frog; 16-0985; (image courtesy Yvette Bree)



Image 16-1605

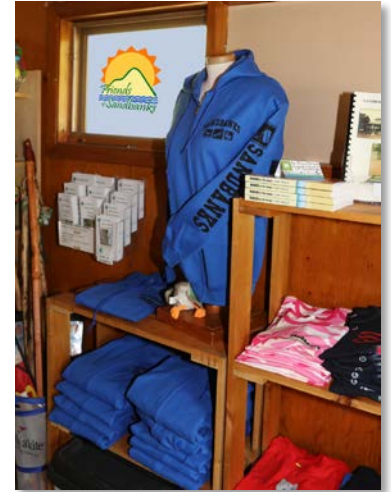
The Friends Nature Shop

The year 2016 has been an exciting year for the Nature Shop. New merchandise "is arriving daily" (as all the ads say). This means our team of three is moving from the planning, examining, deciding and ordering phases into shop preparation, data entry and pricing.

We have newly-designed T-shirts for every size and taste. Trying not to order every imaginable, interesting nature book, proved to be a real challenge.

With our limited purchasing budget, finding toys and gifts at fair selling prices becomes harder every year. Nevertheless, we have managed to find some new selections. We would love to have more help to make these decisions and market the results.

During the summer, the shop is run by Natural Heritage Education (NHE) students who also work the Visitor's Centre, when not involved in all the things NHE oversees (education, entertainment, environmental issues etc.).



Above: Image 16-1601, the new hoodies!

Opening day was very successful, with many of the folks on the Nature Walks dropping by to visit, to have a cup of coffee and to see (and buy!) some of our new merchandise! "Healthy Parks, Healthy People" Day was also a success with our roadside tent sale.

Many thanks to Agneta, Janet and Penny for all their hard work in the Shop!

Editor John

(Right: Image 16-4798, Eden, Penny, Janet and Agneta at the tent sale)

(Below: Image 16-1597, the interior of the shop)



Garbage in the Park



Above: Image 16-5116,
Below: Image 16-5160



Despite the best efforts of park staff, trash has a way of accumulating at our favourite place. All visitors need to be proactive in keeping the park clean!

While much of the litter in the park is left behind by inconsiderate visitors, increasingly aerial and water-borne flotsam and jetsam is arriving in the park, primarily in the form of those ubiquitous helium-filled celebratory balloons.

Once the helium is gone, these aerial "gifts" from points west of the County fall into Lake Ontario, or even kilometres inland.

With their colourful polyester and plastic skins and long, trailing ribbons, they can be a tempting snack for a curious creature, both on land or in the water.

But usually, such a meal proves to be deadly. Lodging in the digestive tracts of these hapless creatures, they block digestion, and result in the animal slowly starving to death.

We can all help by picking up this trash!

Flotsam versus Jetsam

Did you know the difference between flotsam and jetsam? "Flotsam" is defined as material that was not deliberately thrown overboard; "jetsam" is material that was thrown overboard on purpose.

The difference in maritime law is huge... if I find a floating cargo container with your vintage Bentley that was lost in a shipwreck, that's still yours. But if the crew threw that container overboard, to lighten the vessel, then it's fair game for anyone that claims it!

P.S.

Not yet found that Bentley!



How can you help?

Dedicate one walk per month on the beach to picking up trash. Fill a bag full... you won't have to walk far to do that! Concentrate on the areas that are less travelled... there are still old nails, tin cans and shotgun cartridges left over from the past 80 years in the more remote areas of the beach and dunes. Pay special attention to broken glass; some of those old stubby beer bottles can have very sharp edges.

Above right: Image 16-5183, John Brebner with a bag filled with beach trash, including at least twenty-five deflated balloons.

Sandbanks Research in The County, *Part Two*

Mariners Park Museum

One of my favourite hidden museums in the County is the Mariners' Park Museum located in Milford.

Open from Victoria Day Weekend, it promises to be another great season for all the County Museums.

I have to admit to being drawn to this particular location. It's a bit off the beaten track, but is a fabulous museum, with a wealth of artifacts detailing the County history in both ship-building and international maritime history.

While the Museum sports some eye-catching outdoor exhibits, including a reconstructed lighthouse, I was amazed at the all-encompassing content with the buildings.

You might ask what connection the history of ships and shipping has to the Sandbanks. Think of masts, and the tall pines that at one time covered the county. They were shipped from the Sandbanks along the old mast trail to Milford for export to Britain.

Think of "Barley Days" and the removal of sand-stabilizing trees to grow more lucrative crops.

Once the pines were gone, the cedars followed, so that 18th century shipping and farm commerce played a major role in the movement of the shifting sands at West Lake.

Those vessels braved the dangerous waters off West Point to ship that precious barley to New York state ports like Oswego.

It's well worth a visit to see the artifacts and mariners' stories lovingly preserved here!

marinersmuseum@pecounty.ca

John A. Brebner
May, 2016



Image 15-1565



Image 15-7254



Image 15-7280



Image 15-7299

Click on any image to download full-size version.

Early Aerial Images



[The National Air Photo Library](#) (now National Earth Observation Data Framework (NEODF) Catalogue is a wonderful resource for aerial images taken across Canada starting in about 1930. These high-resolution images can be selected by area and ordered in resolutions of up to 2000 ppi; that's a very detailed (and large) file when taken from a 9 inch by 9 inch dedicated aerial camera.

While we are familiar with Google Earth and other satellite image providers, these super-quality black-and-white images were made across Canada starting in the early 1930s.

I have purchased images similar to these in the past, but they were quite expensive. But some recent purchases of high resolution images were less than \$40.00 each.

Left: Image 16-4469, 1949

The image above is of the Sandbanks and Block H area including West Lake and West Point. Taken in 1949, it shows a the dunes as a much less vegetated area than it is today.

While these were usually taken on a clear day, from 5,000 to 15,000 feet, there is the slight possibility that the only cloud in the sky is between the camera and your point of interest! That you find out only by trial and error, or by visiting the Ottawa Booth Street location and viewing the actual printed image in their library.



The staff at the National Air Photo Library are stellar in customer relations. Both Yves and Bruno at their Booth Street location in Ottawa will go out of their way to help customers.

Want to know what your farm looked like in 1935, 1940, and onward? This is the place to find those superbly detailed black and white images.

Left: The Booth Street Complex, Image 14-3547



**LAKESIDE VILLAGE
INN**

Lakefront Suites in the Heart of Wine Country

349 Main Street
Wellington, ON

613.399.2034
1.800.524.6980

www.lakesidevillageinn.com info@lakesidevillageinn.ca



Mother's Day Walk; 16-1185



Mother's Day Walk; 16-1203



164 Main Street
P.O. Box 2280
Picton, ON
K0K 2T0

Tel: 613.476.3205
www.tdbank.com



Sandfest; 16-4762



Sandfest; 16-4728



Park Store and Grill

Tel. 613.393.8956 parkstore1@hotmail.com



Theatre in the Park; 16-4880



Theatre in the Park; 16-4829

W.H. Williamson & Co. Limited
INSURANCE BROKER

178 Main Street
Picton, ON
K0K 2T0

Tel: 613-476-7418
www.pec.on.ca/williamson



Lakeshore Lodge Day; 16-5807



Lakeshore Lodge Day; 16-5831

Black Prince



WINERY

13370 Loyalist Parkway
R.R. # 1, Picton, ON
K0K 2T0

Tel: 613.476.4888

www.blackprincewinery.com



Bikes, Beards and Bandshells;
16-6166



Bikes, Beards and Bandshells;
16-6179

Please support our local advertisers!

Welch LLP[®]

Audit • Tax • Accounting • Consulting

289 Main Street, Suite 2
Picton, ON K0K 2T0
Tel: 613.476.3283 www.welchllp.com



Picton Home Hardware Building Centre
13544 Loyalist Parkway
Picton, ON
K0K 2T0

Tel: 613.476.7497

www.homehardware.ca



239 Main Street,
Picton, Ontario
K0K 2T0

Tel: 613.476.3037

www.PictonBookstore.com



Outlet Beach looking north, Lake Ontario at left; Image 16-5088

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

Facebook: facebook.com/friendsofsandbanks

2016 Board of Directors and Committee Members

Mark Despault	Chair
John Dreschler	Vice-Chair
Brian McLaughlin	Treasurer
Don Metcalf	Secretary
Penny Sipkes	Past Chair
Agneta Sand	Director, Nature Shop Co-Manager
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

Unless otherwise noted, all images © John A. Brebner

Newsletter and content © 2016 Friends of Sandbanks Park