



BETWEEN FRIENDS

🐣 working with the park to make it an even better place to visit 🐣

Spring into Summer 2010

FRIENDS OF SANDBANKS PARK
P.O. Box 20007

219 Main Street

Friends web page is www/pec.on.ca/friends
Picton ON K0K 3V0

The Friends of Sandbanks Park is a Registered Charity #893935767

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2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Penny Sipkes	Chair	613-393-5774
Mark Despault	Vice-Chair, Park Liaison	613-393-3319
Brian McLaughlin	Treasurer	613-399-2438
Don Metcalf	Secretary	613-476-4423
Mark Powell	Director	613-967-6157
Doug Johnson	Director	613-476-1377
John Drechsler	Director	613-476-0460
Bob Broad	Director	613-848-2990
Doug Sloane	Past Chair	613-476-3277
Elaine Metcalf	Nature Shoppe Co-Manager	613-476-4423
Agneta Sand	Nature Shoppe Co-Manager	613-476-7133
Neil Sipkes	Membership Co-ordinator	613-393-5774
Evelyn Sloane	Newsletter Editor	613-476-3277

2010 MEETING DATES

All Friends of Sandbanks Park meetings are at the Park Office and start promptly at 10:00am. However, the AGM is usually held offsite. All members are welcome to attend, but please confirm in advance, by phoning Penny at 613-393-5774. The following are the planned dates for the remaining 2010 meetings - May 10, June 14, July 12, August 9, September 13, October 18, November 8, and December 13 for the AGM [tentative date].

The printing of the newsletter is made possible by the generous support of Don Bucholtz, Superintendent of Sandbanks Provincial Park. Thank you to Don and all the staff at the Park who support the Friends in so many ways. We would be pleased to print articles pertaining to memories of Sandbanks; joys or woes of camping; book reviews; recipes - Snail mail to the Friends address or e-mail to romar@kos.net. Deadline for submissions for the next newsletter is *August 15, 2010*.

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Local companies advertise in the newsletter. Their generosity helps to offset the postage and supplies for the newsletter. Please support these local businesses in the County.

We are so lucky - just returned from a great walk in the park - in March! So we may get more snow but at least we can enjoy the good weather when it is here. Maple in the County will give us plenty of reason to spend more time outside now the sap is flowing.

As Friends we look back on last year's accomplishments while looking forward to more excitement to come.

The bicycle racks we purchased last year will be put in place once staff is back to work in the park. Threatening weather meant fewer runners signed up early for the September Fun Run. However, the day stayed dry and again a huge turnout made Aggie Bortolussi's hard work and organizing pay off. Many Friends volunteered to help Aggie.

Our funding allowed for the revival of the path alongside the road toward Outlet. We hope to continue it right to the bridge if finances allow. It is intended for walkers and bicyclists to share and so reduce the numbers on the road. The pathway now goes from just past the entrance gate nearly to the park store. There is a short break in front of the main park office as far as the Visitor's Centre and Nature Shoppe. The very successful Scenes of Sandbanks *and Beyond* Art Show was held at Black Prince Winery in October. Evelyn and Doug Sloane do all the organizing and arranging, bringing new artists in every year to keep the show fresh.

Ontario Parks recognized our donation to their bursary program. A plaque is displayed in the visitor's centre. Students are chosen on merit from all the provincial parks to receive university bursaries. Our 'tree' at Festival of Trees received many favourable comments on the natural decorations and sold for a fair price. The local hospital auxiliary appreciates our donation.

Look for the 'History Lives Here' films shorts at the theatre and various events. The one on Sandbanks Park was jointly funded by the park and the Friends.

Our reforestation project (now in year three) continues with the help of environmental students from Prince Edward Collegiate Institute who assist with the planting. We have purchased some larger trees which will be planted at Lake on the Mountain (part of Sandbanks Park) in May.

We look forward to the summer events (see dates elsewhere in this newsletter) and hope you will make yourself known to us. Look for our beige t-shirts with green print.

It is also time to renew your membership. Memberships run from April 1 till March 31. The form is printed in this newsletter.

Thank you for your continued support. Without your membership fees, donations, and purchases from the Nature Shoppe we could never accomplish as much as we do. If you are camping or nearby on you are invited to attend one of our meetings.



WESTPOINT



TOO EARLY FOR CAMPING

Photographs courtesy of Penny Sipkes

The park will open on April 23, 2010. On April 1st, our Park supervisors and seasonal maintenance staff were hired back to begin preparations for reopening the park. They will also begin to hire summer staff and plan for the upcoming season.

This will be a very busy year for construction projects in the park. The Cedars Campground Comfort station will be rebuilt complete with a new water system supplied from the maintenance water system which will also be upgraded. As well, new hydro services will be added to the pull through sites in A Campground. But most importantly, the park has received substantial funding from the Infrastructure Stimulus Program funded by the Federal and Provincial Governments. Sandbanks has received funding for road improvements, a new picnic shelter and The Dunes Trail project which the Friends have been keenly interested in for many years. As well, Lake on the Mountain Provincial Park will have a new comfort station constructed. On another project additional tree planting will also take place in old fields which had been prepared last fall for this springs tree planting project.

It has already been a busy start to the 2010 season with the announcements of these projects. With the weather forecasts calling for a warmer and dryer season it could be a banner year for Sandbanks. Already the spring season is as early as I have ever seen it. So please come out to the park and enjoy this great time of the year.

ICE VOLCANOES

Article and photographs by Penny Sipkes

Sandbanks Provincial Park is an ideal location for the formation of ice volcanoes. Most of the park has water that very gradually deepens with few deep drop-offs on the Lake Ontario side. Ice forms on the surface and where there is water movement it is seldom solid. Cracks and weak spots develop close to the edge of the ice as it forms. An incoming wave, undercutting the top layer of ice, may spray up slush between these cracks.

Where this happens, the crystals in it solidify around the opening forming an ever-increasing ice ring. With continuing wave movement breaking along the shore, the forces push the spray ever higher until the sides are well above the surrounding ice layer. On very calm days the original crack may freeze over. Now the water movement cannot break through, so the volcano is 'dormant'. Other volcanoes may form further away from the shore leaving a range of extinct volcanoes. The wind and wave action determine where these volcanoes will form. Some years they are along County Road 12 between Outlet and West Point and other years, like winter of 2009-10 they form at the Outlet beach area.



NEIL SIPKES - PREPARING FOR EVEREST



ICE VOLCANOES NEAR OUTLET

As spring approaches and the park begins preparing for another busy summer, thoughts turn to tree planting projects. The Friends have been involved in the restoration of two fields near the entrance of the park, but other planting projects are also happening.

The Friends project is a relatively unique method of restoring a forest. The site was first prepared by creating large pits & mounds to mimic a forest floor. The first year of planting (2008) saw several thousand small saplings planted throughout two fields. Last year, larger seedlings & saplings were planted in one section and this year we are planning to complete another section with the larger stock. Various tending methods are being applied to increase the survival rate of the young trees. This project has gone well to date, as cooler, wetter summers the past two years have encouraged good success with the young transplants. If you are a tree-lover, you will be hoping for the same again this summer! This project will continue for at least another two years, but of course it will take a lot of time for a mature forest to appear. Look for the interpretive sign on County Road 18 as you head to the park on your next visit.

Another project, which was spearheaded by the local Stewardship Council, was the planting of 4,000 trees in two separate fields. One field was treated with an herbicide sprayed around the base of each tree, while the seedlings in the other field were mulched. Both of these methods are an attempt to reduce competition from grasses and other plants, which might otherwise choke out the small seedlings before they get a chance to rise above them. The diversity of tree species in this planting project was much lower - only White Pine & White Spruce were used, but conifers grow quickly and the success rate is usually higher than with deciduous species. And conifers are often the first step in the natural succession to a forest, as these trees can provide the proper conditions for other types of trees that need the shade the conifers will offer. It is hoped that when the "pits & mounds" project winds down, the Friends will be able to fund the inter-planting of other tree species into these fields to increase the diversity of these areas and perhaps speed up the forest-building process.

A small project this spring, of interest to Woodlands campers, is the addition of 100 larger trees to the more open areas of the campground. Because of the small number of trees, they will be planted with extra TLC. Perhaps their biggest risk is the campers themselves. Tying ropes to them or cutting off branches for marshmallow sticks will certainly reduce their chances of success.

The final project, beginning this year, is the largest undertaking. With assistance from various partners, the park will see the planting of approximately 45,000 trees in several abandoned agricultural fields throughout the park. Once again, a low diversity of tree species will be planted, but the idea is to get - primarily coniferous - trees into these areas, which will then act as a nursery to encourage seedlings of other tree species to grow naturally. With a project of this scale, it will be very difficult to provide any extra tending of the seedlings once they are planted, so once again, if you are a tree-lover, you will hope for a cool, wet summer!

With all these trees being planted, it is hoped that we will slowly be able to restore much of the park area back to the forested habitat that was here originally. Unfortunately, it is a slow process, but slight changes can be noticed from year to year. So as you return to Sandbanks, take a look around you: this year, next year, five, ten or twenty years from now, and see how our forest is developing with a little help from our Friends.

Charlie Thompson, B.A. B.Comm. CA
Partner

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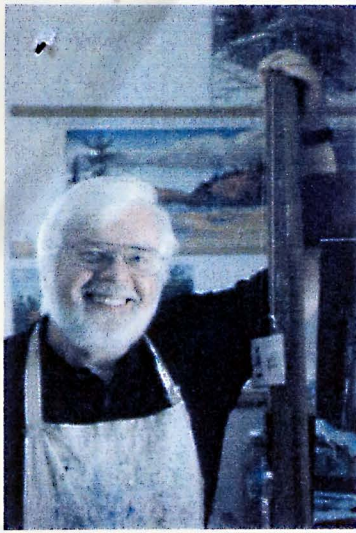
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SHORT BIO - AIDAN HALEY

Born in Saint John, New Brunswick, Aidan has lived in Newfoundland, Quebec and Ontario, first in Burlington and now in Picton where he resides with his wife, Maureen.

Completely intuitive, his work is described as "contemporary impressionism". Aidan works mainly in oils and sometimes in fluid acrylics. His paintings encompass a wide area of Canada mainly in Provincial and National Parks. He has traveled extensively in this country even to the Sub Arctic.

Aidan has had solo shows at McGill & Guelph universities, in Burlington at the Artist's Gallery and Burlington Art Center and at Bright's Grove Gallery. He has exhibited in the East Central Ontario Art Association's (ECOAA) Juried and Algonquin Shows and in commercial galleries in Quebec and Ontario. He has paintings in many countries of the world; Canada, USA, Mexico, Barbados, Costa Rica, Great Britain, Holland, Australia and New Zealand.

Photo courtesy of Peggy DeWitt

Some recent highlights in his career have been -

Painting small panels to be used in the play "The Colours of the Storm" a story of Tom Thomson. The Federal Government purchasing two of his Innuksuks in 2001 / 2002. Artist in Residence at Sandbanks Provincial Park in 2003. Artist on Location at Waring House. (a popular local Inn) in 2004. Taught a sketching course at Loyalist College in Belleville 2003/4. Prince Edward County's "Artist of the Year" in 2006 Surpassing 1000 recorded paintings in 2007.

Mr. Haley is an active member of the Prince Edward County Arts Council, Quinte Arts Council and was a participant of Prince Edward County's Studio Tour. Member of the AAEF, Algonquin Artists Expeditionary Force, a group of PEC artists that paint in Algonquin every October.

Aidan also has his own studio/gallery at 26 Barker St. Picton that is open to the public Daily from 10am till 6 pm or by appointment. 613-476-8826.

The painting that Aidan will produce for this years Scenes of Sandbanks *and Beyond*, will be on the poster advertising the event. Black Prince Winery will also be producing a wine with a label featuring the same image. The wine and the poster will be on sale during the Art Show.

Aidan's statement about his art is very eloquent.

'I paint because I love the land. Landscape painting allows me to put my emotion and love for the land into paintings. I perceive the land as bright and colourful, full of optimism and hope and this is the effect that I try and instill in my work and in the hearts and minds of those that view my paintings. I paint because I want to leave something of value behind for family, friends and others who enjoy my work, to make the statement - 'I was here!' I paint because it is a challenge not accept a 'comfort zone' in your work and to be innovative and try new techniques. This is especially important as you age, it keeps you young. I paint because of all the other artists I have met over the years and the give and take of artistic experience, although I wasn't aware of this when I started. I paint because my grandchildren think 'It's really cool to have a 'BUMPA' who is an artist.'

April 18-24, 2010 is National Volunteer Week - Thank you for Volunteering!

There are about 45,000 incorporated, non-profit groups in Ontario active in health, **recreation**, the arts, social services, newcomer settlement, education, religion, the **environment** and other fields. The vast majority of non-profits are small and medium sized. More than half of non-profits are run exclusively by **volunteers**. A survey by Infrastructure Canada found 82 per cent of Ontarians consider volunteer organizations to be the most important contributors to modern life in our communities. Statistics Canada values Ontario volunteers time at over **\$10 billion** annually, and charitable contributions at over \$4.4 billion. Over **5 million** Ontarians volunteer yearly contributing over **800 million** annual volunteer hours - equivalent to more than **400,000** full-time jobs. The volunteer rate among Ontarians aged 15 and over is 50 per cent. The national average is 45 per cent. 86 per cent of Ontarians participate in informal volunteering by helping others directly. The national average is 83 per cent. Over half of Ontarians aged 45-54 volunteer, contributing an average of 137 volunteer hours annually. Almost half of Ontarians aged 55-64 volunteer, contributing an average of 120 volunteer hours annually. Ontario's youth, 15-24 year olds, volunteer at a rate of 63 per cent. The national average is 55 per cent. Ontario's lowest volunteer rate - 39 per cent - is among seniors 65 and older; however seniors who do volunteer, volunteer the greatest number of hours.

Thank you Friends of Sandbanks Park for the thousands of hours you have given!

CANADA AND ONTARIO IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE IN PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY.



Friday, March 19, was a glorious sunny day, as Park Staff and Friends gathered to hear that the Canadian & Ontario Governments announcement of stimulus funding to the tune of over one million dollars to improve three local parks and trails in Prince Edward Hastings - Sandbanks, Lake-on-the-Mountain and Silent Lake.

Photographs courtesy of Doug Johnson

'I am very proud to announce this very important investment,' said Mr Kramp. 'Construction will soon begin on these projects and residents in Prince Edward-Hastings will directly benefit from the jobs created and the economic stimulus it generates. The environmental stewardship and tourism promotion has and will be important to our government and the citizens of Prince Edward-Hastings.'

Ms Leona Dombrowsky went on to say 'The McGuinty government is committed to strengthening the economy by funding local projects that will improve infrastructure, promote tourism and stimulate employment.' She also praised the efforts of the Friends volunteers.

'These projects will benefit the environment, our park visitors and the greater community by improving our infrastructure within Sandbanks and Lake on the Mountain Provincial Parks,' said Don Buchopltz. 'I am thrilled to hear that these projects have been funded by the program.'

Charles Lacey, Past Chair of the Friends of Sandbanks, made the following comments. '*The original concept of a Dunes Trail was put forward in 1993. In 1995 a five year plan was initiated by the Friends of Sandbanks with completion expected in the year 2000. In 1996 we started fund raising toward construction of the Dunes Trail. In 1999 Scott Wentworth Landscaping Group developed a plan for the Dunes Trail. MNR Zone Park Planners objected to the costs and sent it back to the consultants for revision. That is where the project has remained shelved. The Friends have committed \$25,000.00 to the Dunes Trail and this money is still earmarked for that purpose. After seventeen years it is great news that finally some part of the project will be built. We think the Dunes Trail is very important for the preservation and protection of this unique and irreplaceable natural feature.*'

The grand plan that we envisioned years ago has been scaled back, but the bottom line for Sandbanks is that The Dunes Trail will finally become a reality. This project has been on the books for more than 15 years but it took a recession to make it happen.

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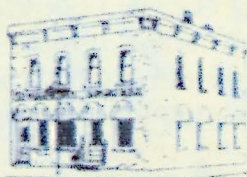
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We are please to announce that John Drechsler and Bob Broad have joined the Board as Directors.

JOHN DRECHSLER

Sir Sandford Fleming College – 1968 Forestry technician
1968-1974 Crown Land Surveyor – Fort Frances ON
1974- 1980 Superintendent Lake Superior Provincial Park, Wawa ON
1980- 2002 Superintendent Samual de Champlain Provincial Park, Driftwood Provincial Park, Mattawa River Provincial Park, Mattawa ON
2007- 2010 Board of Directors, Quinte Conservation Authority
Married with 2 daughters
Presently training for Senior Golf Tour (Retirement)



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A camping trip is in jeopardy whenever early risers or night owls exceed 50% of the party. If either is a majority, the other campers should reassess their plans

A day without sunshine is like....night.

We cannot direct the wind but we can adjust our sails.

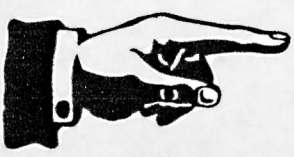
When ants travel in a straight line, expect rain.
When they scatter, expect fair weather.

When harvesting wild plants, bigger means bitter.

If you see deer out feeding in the early afternoon, expect a change in the weather.

When the going gets tough, the tough get chocolate.

OK...so what's the speed of dark?



FRIENDS OF SANDBANKS PARK RENEWAL FORM 2010

Thank you to all the members who support The Friends of Sandbanks Park. Membership is an important part of any organization and your commitment through your membership emphasizes this. Memberships are due in April.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal/Zip Code: _____ Province/State: _____

Email Address: _____ Telephone No: _____

Single membership **\$10.00** Family Membership **\$15.00** Amount of donation: _____

Please include names for additional membership cards.
Donations of \$10.00 or more will receive a charitable taxation receipt.
Please indicate a total amount enclosed: _____

Please make cheques payable to 'Friends of Sandbanks Park' and mail with your completed membership form to:

Friends of Sandbanks Park, PO Box 20007, Picton ON, K0K 3V0

THE BACK PAGE

County Trash Bash - April 24

Mother's Day Events - May 9 At the Visitor Centre and the Nature Shoppe

The **Art of Flight**, show and sale, coincides with the PEC Birding Festival and the height of the spring migration. The theme of the show, **The Art of Flight**, celebrates the miracle of the annual migration of thousands of birds through Prince Edward County en route to and from their nesting sites in the Boreal forest. This theme is intended to encourage creative flights of fancy among the participating artists.

The Show is presented at Black Prince Winery with free admission and ample parking. All members of the Friends of Sandbanks are invited to the opening on May 6, from 7-9pm at the winery. The show continues on Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays from 11am to 5pm and open Monday - Victoria Day.

May 7, 8 & 9

May 14, 15, & 16

May 21, 22, 23 & 24

Lilac Festival - May 22 at Macaulay House Museum - visit the Friends booth

Terroir - a celebration of County Wines at the Crystal Palace, Saturday **May 29**. For more information, check out the Black Prince Winery web page at www.blackprincewinery.com

Prince Edward County Field Naturalists meet on the last Tuesday of the month at the Bloomfield Town Hall, from 7-9pm. Bring your own coffee mug.

Friends of the Picton Library Quality Book Sales Saturday, **May 29** and Saturday, **August 28** on the Front Lawn of the Picton Library. Great bargains on good quality books.

Theatre in the Park July 14, 28, and August 11 & 25

Sandbanks Trivia Challenge Saturdays, July 3, July 17, July 31, August 14, and August 28

Outlet Memories & Sandbanks Sculpture Contest July 21

Lakeshore Lodge Day & Friends Trash Bash Day August 18

Sunday, September 12

Sandbanks Fall Getaway Fun Run.

5km and 10km run along the scenic shores of Lake Ontario. Please note that the 10km run qualifies for the Terry Fox Run as well.

Sunday October 3

6th Annual County Marathon.

<http://www.pecmarathon.ca/>

A Boston Marathon Qualifier. Course goes through the park; road closures may affect travel plans.

Thursday, October 21

Scenes of Sandbanks and Beyond

opening reception 7-9pm

All 'Friends' are cordially invited to the opening reception, 7:00pm-9:00pm at Black Prince Winery, 13370 Loyalist Parkway, west of Picton. The Show continues at Black Prince Winery as follows with free admission and ample parking Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays from 11am to 5pm

October 23, 24, 25

October 30, 31, November 1

November 6, 7, & 8

The premise of the show is to promote the scenic beauty and the historical significance of **The County**.

Works of art that celebrate the historical and pictorial uniqueness, changing seasons, especially the Burgeoning Wine Industry and the Provincial Parks of 'The County' are featured. Funds raised from *Scenes of Sandbanks and Beyond* are directed to the Dunes Trail.

CAMPING RESERVATIONS

For reservations call 1-888-ONT-PARK or visit the web at www.OntarioParks.com. There is a \$12. fee for this service. Call 613-393-3319 for information about Sandbanks Provincial Park

Black Prince



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