



# BETWEEN FRIENDS

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

## Autumn 2011

### FRIENDS OF SANDBANKS PARK

P.O. Box 20007, 219 Main Street, Picton ON K0K 3V0

Friends web page is [www.pec.on.ca/friends](http://www.pec.on.ca/friends)

*New Address Coming Soon*

The Friends of Sandbanks Park is a Registered Charity #893935767

### 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
John Drechsler	Director	613-476-0460
Doug Sloane	Past Chair	613-476-3277
Elaine Metcalf	Nature Shoppe Co-Manager	613-476-4423
Janet Mooney	Nature Shoppe Co-Manager	613-399-9099
Neil Sipkes	Membership Co-ordinator	613-393-5774
Evelyn Sloane	Newsletter Editor	613-476-3277

### 2011 - 2012 MEETING DATES

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 next few months - October 17, November 8, and December 12 [tentative] for the AGM. 2012 - January 9, February 13, March 12, April 9, May 14.

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](mailto:romar@kos.net). Deadline for submissions for the next newsletter is *March 15, 2012*. The contents of this newsletter are the sole property of the Friends of Sandbanks Park and may not be reproduced without the permission of the editor.

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.

The worst day camping is better than the best day working.

From my Beach Chair

Penny Sipkes

As we have for all but 2 of the last thirty years, we camped at Sandbanks this summer. We have seen many changes in all this time. Originally the park system was run by MNR before Ontario Parks was formed. To get our favourite campsites many of us would line up at the park on opening day. It was in one of these line ups I learned about the formation of Friends of Sandbanks. My husband and I have been Friends ever since. No more lining up in person with friends offering you a hot dog, just hours trying to save a site on-line or on the ever-busy phone. Somehow the park has managed to do a great deal with ever decreasing staff numbers in spite of the increasing popularity of our park. Groups of campers have also changed. They now come from further afield to enjoy our great beaches with over a third of campers now coming from Quebec.

Some parks report reduced attendance but the difficulties in getting a site at Sandbanks suggest this is not a problem here. With most years reporting over half a million visitors passing through it is hard to protect this fragile environment. As Friends, one of our objectives is to educate visitors about the park and we work with park staff to this end. The stimulus funding improved many aspects of Sandbanks. Most of the comfort stations have been replaced as have much of the septic and water systems. One improvement has had differing reactions. Many of the roads in Outlet areas A and B were paved. The potholes are gone but some fear the drivers will speed. As Friends, we are delighted this funding finally brought about the Dunes Trail. With a final lookout and interpretive panels planned, we hope to celebrate the completion of this trail next year. We have received favourable comments from the many hikers who are enjoying walking its length. The bicycle racks we purchased last year are very much in use allowing more cars to stay on sites.

Our Dinner before theatre was not a success, and we had the smallest turn-out ever for trash bash. However, Sandfest was a great success with families making a point to attend having had such fun in other years. Next year will be the fifth year of tree-planting for the reforestation project with over 4500 trees planted in the three fields so far.

Look for our new and improved web page in the coming months. Do let us know what you think and recommend your friends visit it.

2012 will see major changes in park staffing. We have enjoyed working with all the staff and look forward to a great relationship with new staff, once hired. We wish the retirees every enjoyment of their new lives and hope they will stay committed to the Friends of Sandbanks.

I have been most fortunate to have super people working with me on the board and in committee positions. Without their support and comments we would accomplish nothing. Friends of Sandbanks come from a wide area, from a wide range of backgrounds but all with the desire to see the park a better place for all to enjoy. We would love for you to be more involved. Come to any meeting, contact us and express interest, show up at any of our events, shop at the Nature Shoppe, however you choose, we would enjoy getting to know you.

 Currah's  
Cafe & Catering

Fresh Seafood  
Gourmet Coffee  
Ontario VQA Wines  
are our specialty

Chris Currah, Proprietor  
Danielle Duguay, Special Events Coordinator  
Lyndon Johnston, Executive Chef

[www.currahs.com](http://www.currahs.com)

## Hurray for Students!

By Yvette Bree Natural Heritage Education Coordinator

This year marks my 25th year working at the park. Over that time, the Natural Heritage Education (NHE) - formerly Visitor Services (VS) department - has accomplished a lot. I like to think that I might have had something to do with that, but I credit most of it to the staff that I have had over the years. Numbers have changed from year to year. In 1987, my first year here, I think there were seven of us in total. Six of them crammed into the back room of the Visitor Centre (what is now the Friends' Nature Shoppe) and my office in the Centre was full of every prop, costume, file and piece of amphitheatre equipment we owned. When the Friends expanded their ideas and were looking for more space for their store, I moved the NHE staff to an old, unused staff house in Richardson's Campground. It was huge in comparison to what we had been using, but we managed to fill it in record time. It is now organized into rooms for program props, artefacts, resource management tools and of course, office space.

Programs have doubled since the early years. Spirit Walks were introduced in 1988, followed several years later by Theatre in the Park. Creative staff have developed and expanded this program throughout the years, until it has become one of the best interpretive special events presented anywhere in Ontario Parks. Lakeshore Lodge Day was introduced around 1990, and has remained one of our most popular programs more than 20 years later. 1997 was a peak for staff numbers: student funding was at an all-time high and 17 people worked in NHE that year. Although we had done a bit in the past, that was the year that we began to take on all sorts of resource management projects in earnest. Invasive species removal, tree planting, Marram Grass planting, trail maintenance, monitoring and nesting boxes are just some of the many projects that have been accomplished over the years. This year, we have added the new Sandbanks Dunes Trail to our responsibilities.

Unfortunately, staff numbers have been reduced in the last couple of years. We had 11 people working in NHE in 2009, 10 in 2010 and only 9 this summer. We have had to make a few adjustments to our schedule to ensure that priorities were addressed, but I think the staff should be proud of what they have accomplished this summer. A huge effort was made with invasive species removal, particularly Swallowwort (Dog Strangling Vine). Theatre in the Park was extremely well done, thanks to good scripts, excellent acting and great support from all NHE staff. Our regular programs should not be overlooked, as all staff took part in ensuring that they were well planned, prepared and presented. We have had many good comments from our visitors about them. I would like to take the opportunity to thank each and every one of the students, who have all contributed to the successful summer we have just finished: Zac Flavelle, Sarah Dewey, Heather Redmond, Rachal Renwick, Mike Saunders, Zack Fledderus and Brittany Williams. I would also like to thank Joanne Dewey, who may not be a student anymore, but contributes hugely to the success of the NHE program here at Sandbanks. I look forward to another great summer in 2012!



Some of the staff from this summer at our annual NHE Provincial Workshop at Geneva Park in Orillia (left to right: Heather Redmond, Rachal Renwick, Sarah Dewey, Mike Saunders & Zac Flavelle)

Don Bucholtz - Park Superintendent

The summer of 2011 has been another warm year, although a number of rain events during August have slowed the day use visitation somewhat. In 2010 our visitation exceeded 600,000 visitors for the first time ever. Our numbers may not reach this level this year but we should be very near to it.

I have received many favourable comments about the paved roads we completed last year in A and B Campgrounds. As well, visitors have made many good comments about the new Dunes Trail. These two projects were the highest in my goals to complete before I retired, so I was very happy to see them finally completed. Planning for our next capital project is underway for a Comfort Station to be built in the Sandbanks Day Use Area. Tendering should begin in September.

Two new parking meters were installed, one at the Dunes Day Use Area and a second one at the entrance to the Sandbanks Day Use Area. These machines make it convenient for customers to enter these areas and to not have to enter through the parks main gate. These machines have been rented by Ontario Parks on a trial basis. They allow secure payment by credit cards and coins and are powered by solar panels.

As this summer season winds down as my last before I retire next April it will be fondly remembered as one of the best. There have been a number of staff changes this year and all of my supervisors have done an exceptional job and shown excellent morale through out the season. I thank them for making it another successful year at Sandbanks.

*W. H. Williamson & Co. Limited*

INSURANCE BROKER

*- Established Since 1883 -*

P.O. Box 100, 178 Main St., Picton, Ont. K0K 2T0

*Frank Wright*

BROKER

Residence 476-3802

Tel: 613-476-7418 or 476-2881

Fax: 613-476-4345



Picton  
Home Hardware  
Building Centre  
13544 Loyalist  
Parkway  
Picton  
Ontario  
K0K 2T0



**T 613 476 7497**

**F 613 476 1614**

[@pictonhomehardware.com](http://pictonhomehardware.com)



When I first started here at Sandbanks over 20 years ago, I use to sit on the front steps of the park office with the maintenance foreman on Labour Day Monday and wave good bye to the campers as they left for the summer. After that, the park was very quiet, we would start closing down campgrounds and only keep Outlet River Campground A open for the few campers that continued to come on weekends until thanksgiving. The parks in the eastern zone would get together in the fall and review park operations, budgets, upcoming projects and visitation. One of the goals of the park system at that time was to increase visitation in the spring and fall season.

Photo by Theresa Durning

You may wonder what this has to do with the fun run, but trust me I will tie it all in. In my younger days, before kids, I use to jog/run quite regularly through the park. My friend Anne Kerr would sometime join me and together we would go to fun runs around the area like the Brighton Apple fest Run, Peterborough Lift Lock 10 km, Belleville Spring Thaw 10km Run and Limestone Race Weekend in Kingston. We often talked about what a perfect setting the park would be for a fun run, no traffic, beautiful scenery, relatively easy flat route.

So since Ontario Parks wanted to increase fall visitation and since Anne and I liked running and thought the park was a perfect place for a run, we decided to organize the Sandbanks Fall Getaway Fun Run. My goal was to have people come back camp for the weekend and participate in the run on the Sunday. After checking out what other races were going on in the area, we chose the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in September, which did not seem to have races going on and we did not want to take away participants from other events.

I am sure by now you are wondering how the Friends fit into this story. Well all revenue collected by the park belongs to the Minister of Finance, we wanted the funds raised through this event to stay here in the park and the only way to do that was if the Friends of Sandbanks hosted the event. I spoke to Charles Lacey who was the Chairman at the time, and I offered to organize the event if the Friends would keep any profit from the event to re-invest into the park through resource management projects and the Natural Heritage Education program.

Anne and I attended some of the races in Belleville and Kingston, spoke to the race organizers, and watched how they operated their event. This was the first time either one of us had attempted anything like this and we wanted to do it right. I spoke to Eleanor Lindsay MacDonald, a member of the Friends, who is so charismatic and enthusiastic, to see if she would help with delivering sponsor packages and collecting donations. She was happy to help and has been volunteering for this event ever since.

I then spoke to the concessionaire operator who was Al Kouddsi at the time, to see about using the restaurant as a registration area in the event of rain. He was very cooperative and was willing to provide refreshments to support the event. Everything was progressing nicely, until I discovered that I had accidentally picked the same day as the Terry Fox Run for the Sandbanks fun run (no wonder there were no other events on that weekend). I contacted the local Terry Fox organizers and worked together with them so that runners participating in our event could use our run to fulfill their obligations for the Terry Fox Run

and they were agreeable to that. Fortunately, the second year of the event, a camper by the name of Rick Durst showed up at the park office wondering if there was a Terry Fox run in Picton. I told him about our Fun Run and the tie in to the Terry Fox Run so he decided to run our event. He has made this an annual camping weekend with his friends and they participate in the Fun Run. He is a huge advocate for the Terry Fox Run collecting a great deal of money for the Terry Fox organization and he submits his pledges through our location. So what began as an accidental conflict of dates has turned into a win win for everyone.

Photo of Rick Durst by Agnese Bortolussi

This year will mark the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Sandbanks Fall Getaway Fun Run and over the years, this event has raised \$24,000.00 for the Friends of Sandbanks and approximately \$150,000 for the Terry Fox Run (through the incredible efforts of Rick Durst and other participants), visitation has increased and many runners do come and make a weekend out of it. What started as a small event of 80 runners has grown to on average 250 to 280 runners along with family and friends cheering the runners on. It is a fun day with family, friends and volunteers and because of the repeat participation over the years, there is a camaraderie amongst everyone who is there which is wonderful to see. It makes all the hard work and preparation all worthwhile. So come out and join us on Sunday September 18<sup>th</sup> for the next Sandbanks Fall Getaway Fun Run.

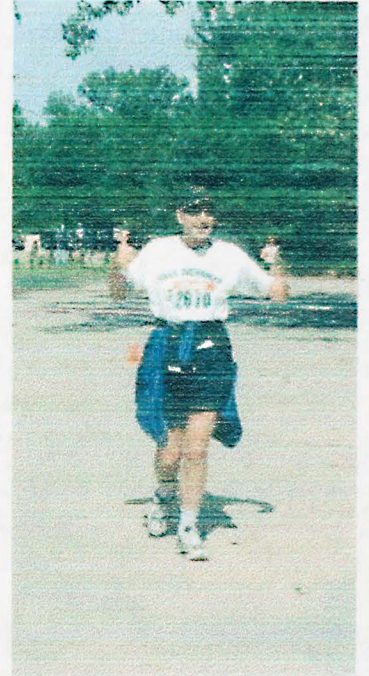


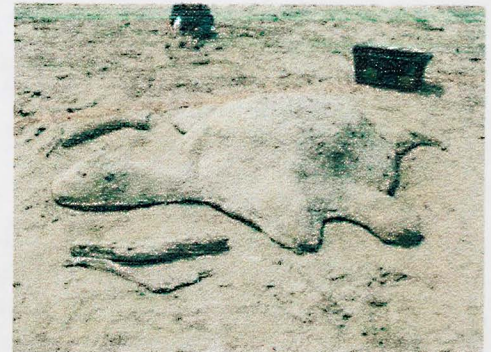
Photo by Theresa Durning  
From left Trevor Miller, Abby Terpstra and Taylor Miller



Wednesday, July 20th was another hot, sunny day typifying the summer season of 2011. Another group of enthusiastic campers from Sandbanks Provincial Park arrived that morning to participate in what has developed into our annual 'Sandfest' festival. This was the fifth year and as in recent years, the enthusiasm and interest shown by the campers continues to grow.

It was interesting to note that the molding of a variety of forms and shapes depicting outdoor themes of our environment were composed amid an aura of quiet determination. However, the stillness of the morning did not detract from the sheer joy shared among the eighty plus participants as they completed the given task at hand! Special thanks goes out to those who assisted with the day's events: Janet Mooney, Elaine Metcalf, Mark Powell, Penny Sipkes and our student Park representative, Brittany Williams.

Early group of campers in the planning stages of their sand sculptures



From left  
Janet Mooney, Elaine Metcalf, Mark Powell  
and Brittany Williams.

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

**Welch LLP**

Welch LLP - Chartered Accountants  
290 Main Street  
Picton, ON K0K 2T0

T. 613.476.3283  
F. 613.476.1627  
chompson@welch.on.ca  
www.welchllp.com

An independent Member of BKR International



272 Main Street  
Picton, ON K0K 2T0

**John Croney**  
Manager  
Small Business / Agriculture

Tel: 613-476-3258 ext. 400  
Fax: 613-476-2264  
Assistant: Laurie Boyd  
Tel: 613-476-3258 ext. 401

**Sunday, September 18**

**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 2**

**6th Annual County Marathon.**  
A Boston Marathon Qualifier. Course goes through the park; road closures may affect travel plans.

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



**Scenes of Sandbanks and Beyond**

Original Art Show and Sale

41 local artists

October 21 - November 6, 2011

Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 11:am to 5:00pm

Art Cellar

Black Prince Winery

13370 loyalist parkway, Picton

A fundraiser for the Friends of Sandbanks Provincial Park

Participating Artists - Mary Brett, Aimee Buikema, Carol Burrill, Pat Busscher, Hedy Campbell, Florence Chik Lau, Margaret Coon, Shelby Del Gatto, Pauline Dinham, Cynthia Dinsdale, Charles Drever, Shauna Duguay, Theresa Durning, Kathryn Elliott, Tom Field, Kenneth Flitton, Brandy Gale, John Gregg, Elizabeth Hutchinson, Andrew Innes, Doug Johnson, Dona Knudsen, Dayna Law, Steven Loney, Donald McClure, Judith McClure, Wayne McNulty, Gerry Putman, Gwen Reilly, Christine Renaud, Sarah Renaud Wilkinson, Kirei Samuel, Marjorie C. Seguin, Geraldine Sharpe, Peter Sly, Jan Swenson, Pat Sztuke, Susan Wallis, Jacob Wiens, Mel Wilder, Colleen Wilder  
All Friends are invited to the opening on October 20 from 7-9pm at the winery.

The picture above is of a pendant that is featured on the poster advertising the art show. Carol Burrill, jeweller to The County, has a long association with the show and we are delighted to feature her work. Carol and her husband own Riccaro Designs on Main Street in Picton, across from the hospital.

289 Main Street, Picton, Ontario K0K 2T0

Tel: 613.476.3037 Fax: 613.471.1896

[sales@pictonbookstore.com](mailto:sales@pictonbookstore.com)



**BOOKS & COMPANY**

books • music • life

[www.PictonBookstore.com](http://www.PictonBookstore.com)

**Black Prince**



WINERY

13370 Loyalist Parkway, R.R.#1, Picton, Ontario, Canada K  
order toll free 866.470.9463 • t. 613.476.4888  
fax 613.476.0075 • [www.blackprincewinery.com](http://www.blackprincewinery.com)