



BETWEEN FRIENDS

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

Autumn 2013

FRIENDS OF SANDBANKS PARK
P.O. Box 22007

97 Main Street

Friends web page is www/pec.on.ca/friends
Picton ON K0K 0A0

The Friends of Sandbanks Park is a Registered Charity #893935767

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Evelyn Sloane	Newsletter Editor; Co-chair Scenes of Sandbanks	613-476-3277
Doug Sloane	Co-chair Scenes of Sandbanks	613-476-3277

MEETING DATES

The Friends of Sandbanks Park meetings are usually held the first Tuesday of the month at the Park Office at 10am. The AGM is set for Tuesday, December 10th at Maple Rest. Pot-luck dinner, great food and good friends. All members are welcome to attend any meeting, but please confirm in advance, by phoning Mark Despault at 613-476-1509.

The printing of the newsletter is made possible by the generous support of Robin Reilly, Superintendent of Sandbanks Provincial Park. Thank you to Robin and all of 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 March 18, 2014.

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 costs of producing the newsletter. Please support these local businesses in the County.

Photographs of Sandfest and Lakeshore Lodge Day are courtesy of Penny Sipkes.

Delicious autumn! My very soul is wedded to it, and if I were a bird I would fly about the earth seeking the successive autumns.
George Eliot

Greetings to all our Friends of Sandbanks Park members.

2013 has been a successful and productive year for both the park and The Friends of Sandbanks Park. Thanks to the funds raised by the Friends, more natural resources management projects have been undertaken.

We have been focusing considerable attention on the task of forest restoration in the park. Over the years hundreds of hectares of farmland were acquired by the park to increase wildlife habitat. Reforestation is necessary in order to enhance these areas in order to encourage the many species that might make Sandbanks their home. Through a partnership with Trees Ontario and a grant from the Canon's 'Take Root' program, the park and the Friends will be planting hundreds of trees this fall and installing deer fencing around a four acre plot in the park. Various species of native hardwoods and conifers will be planted within the fenced area.

As well as all the tree planting we have undertaken, the Friends have funded the construction of a new beach access pathway. The new mat surfaced pathway helps direct pedestrians camping in the Outlet River Campgrounds through the dunes to Campers' Beach. It is hoped the foredunes will experience less impact from beach goers, as well as providing people with an easy, well-marked, accessible path to the beach. The first of these pathways has been in place throughout the summer and is proving to be working well. The intention is to create more of these pathways to the beach in upcoming years.

Preparing for Lakeshore Lodge Day

Other events sponsored by the Friends include our annual Sandfest where park visitors can show off their artistic talents through creating sculptures in the beach sand. It is a great pleasure to see family groups comprised of several generations playing together. This year's weather was perfect, with the promised storm holding off, while preventing the heat and humidity of earlier days. The sculptures had to be seen to be appreciated, and all participants received a small prize. As well, the 'Theatre in the Park' program continues to be a popular event during the summer evenings at Sandbanks, with enthusiastic acting on the part of students, and creative yet informative and often witty writing as well. These events were cleverly done to be entertaining for all ages.

The Friends of Sandbanks Park will be hosting the 2014 'Circle of Friends' Conference here in Prince Edward County. Although we are only in the early stages of planning, we are very excited about this event, and will be sending out more details in the spring of 2014.

Once again, in 2013, the Nature Shop offered an assortment of souvenir clothing, gifts items and books, with an increase this year in the number of items displaying the word Sandbanks. In addition, throw toys were popular, as well as bumper stickers, small collapsible stools, and poison ivy soap (although one customer felt the soap should be free, since 'you don't clear away the poison ivy'. In this case, we decided the client is not always right, although we did sympathize with her itchiness! The store plays a big role in our fund raising efforts, so make sure you drop in when you visit the park. Don't forget to use your Friends' membership discount, and we are always pleased to have suggestions of items we might offer for sale.



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On the topic of fund raising, Clearwater Designs, out of Northport, has generously given us a gorgeous kayak at a substantially reduced cost. We held a raffle with the kayak as first prize along with a pair of binoculars (2nd prize) and a copy of our new book Sandscapes (3rd prize). Tickets were \$2 each and 3 for \$5.

All in all, a great year for the Friends of Sandbanks Park. If you would like to find out more about us or get more involved feel free to visit our web site at <http://friendsofsandbanks.org> or email us at friendsofSandbanks@gmail.com. Thank you for supporting the Friends of Sandbanks Park.

Superintendent's Message

Robin Reilly

Sandbanks is a very busy park---arguably the busiest in the system. Certainly we have a huge number of people crammed into a small area during an intense summer season. The Ontario Provincial Parks operate as a system and revenues raised are shared. I recall the Marxist slogan.....'from each according to their means to each according to their needs.' What that means for us is that a popular park such as Sandbanks earns more than its share and the profit is used to support other parks in the system.

Environmental protection is an important job in any park and I like to think that we at Sandbanks do our work here, but through revenue transfers allow projects in parks across the Province.

That's the positive side of being a popular park. The down side is that we have the challenge of trying to satisfy the expectations of a huge number of people. People can be demanding in a way that a dune plant can't be. People will come into the office demanding action on a plugged toilet, or an unleashed dog, or an unfair parking ticket. Rarely does anyone come in to complain that we aren't looking after the natural environment adequately. The squeaky wheel gets the grease and our staff resources almost invariably focus on customer needs and demands.

Sandbanks, as with all parks, has its share of natural resource management challenges. Trees need to be planted and dunes need to be fenced. Walkways need to be built to protect tender roots and programs need to be developed to inform people about environmental challenges. The Friends of Sandbanks Park continue to raise funds for these important projects. This fall, funding from the Friends will help with an important forest restoration project and with some work to stabilize the dunes. Somehow, despite best intentions Park staff just would not be able to work on these. There is so much that needs to be done and even with the Friends help only a fraction of that will be, but at least making some strides builds hope, confidence and pride.



Black Admiral Photo by Penny Sipkes

The annual **Sandbanks Fun Run** was a great success again this year. Held on September 15, sunny, cool weather heralded the runners enrolled in a 5K or 10K run. 'We had 306 people registered – our best turn out ever,' says Aggie Bortolussi, Race Director. 'Our goal has been to attract people to Prince Edward County during the fall season and to help raise funds for the Friends of Sandbanks,' says Ms Bortolussi. Over the years, Sandbanks has also been a venue for the Terry Fox Run as well. This partnership has been beneficial to both organizations. \$3,000 was raised for the Friends of Sandbanks, and approximately \$25,349 for the Terry Fox organization. Complete list of race results at www.runningbydesign.ca



Congratulations to the following local winners

5km Run Results

Chelsie Wood, Bloomfield 3rd in the 20-29 age group
Parimeeta Shah, Picton 1st in the 30-39 age group
Chris Mousseau, Consecon 2nd in the 50-59 age group
Michael LaRose, Picton 2nd 60 plus age group

10 Km Run Results

Carly Rutter, Consecon 1st in the 15-19 age group
Raye Mcavoy, Shannonville 2nd in the 20-29 age group
Michelle Pothier, Picton 1st in the 40-49 age group
Paul Kenny, Cherry Valley 1st place 60 plus age group

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Yvette Bree

NHE Co-ordinator (a.k.a. the Park Naturalist)

A Milestone For One Of Our Park Naturalists

Zachary Flavelle began working in NHE (Natural Heritage Education) in 2004 and this past summer marks his 10th year at Sandbanks. He began in a student position as a Natural Heritage Education Assistant, but became the Children's Programmer in 2009. Initially, he was hired primarily for his acting abilities and many people know him as Inspector Clueless as well as various other characters in Theatre in the Park. Zac continues to act, direct, write and generally produce Theatre, but he has also taken on many other programs that are greatly appreciated by our visitors. He assists with staff training and supervision and participates in the various ongoing Resource Management projects throughout the park.

Congratulations and Thank You!



The Other Seasons at Sandbanks

Sandbanks is best known for its beaches and summer is obviously the best time to do some sunbathing and swimming. But there are other things to enjoy at the park, and with this in mind, I thought I would introduce you to a couple of things to look out for in the next two seasons - fall and winter.



Goldenrods and asters flower profusely during the fall months. Often falsely criticized for causing allergies (Ragweed is the actual culprit), these flowers are important nectar sources for many insects, including Monarch butterflies, at a time when other food is scarce. There is also one group of insects that use goldenrod in a slightly different way, and these are the **gall insects**.

There are many different types of these gall insects, and to be truthful, you don't often see the actual insect, but rather the gall that it forces the plant to make. Look on goldenrod stems for large, round malformations, which form in response to secretions produced by the insect. Protected inside, is the larval stage of this insect which later develops into a fly and emerges into the world. Goldenrods are easily seen along roadsides within the park, or along the Woodlands Trail.





Wintertime can be a very peaceful time to visit the park. Bring skis if there's enough snow, or simply go for a walk along one of the closed campground roads. Keep your eyes – and ears – open for the surprising variety of birds that can be found at this time of year.

Great Horned Owls are permanent residents of Sandbanks, but they're a little easier to find during the winter months as this is when they are most vocal. These owls need a large territory so there are probably only two or three pairs in the park. Early winter finds the male courting the female by bringing her dead mice to prove that he can provide for a family. Eggs are laid in early February and hatch out soon after.

It seems a very cruel time of the year to come into the world, but the timing is important. As the young owlets grow, their demands for food will increase - their maximum size in May or June will correspond with high populations of small mammals that begin producing their own offspring at that time.

Soon enough, spring will arrive at the park and many animals, plants and park staff will begin getting ready for another busy summer season. We hope to see you next summer, but why not visit during the fall and winter as well? There's always lots to see and do at Sandbanks!

Currah's Park Store & Grill

FABULOUS BREAKFAST SPECIALS
SUNDAY BREAKFAST BUFFET
HOMEMADE STUFFED BURGERS
POUTINE with LOCAL CURDS
PIZZA
KIDS MENU
AUTHENTIC PULLED PORK
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AND MORE...

DID YOU FORGET TO PACK SOMETHING??

WELL WE MIGHT HAVE IT! FIREWOOD,
ICE, WORMS, DAIRY PRODUCTS
NEWSPAPERS, SOAPS, ETC... AND OF
COURSE FUN BEACH AND CAMPING
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VISIT US AT THE PARK STORE

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LOCATED AT THE OUTLET BEACH INSIDE THE
SANDBANKS PARK ACROSS FROM
PARKING LOT #3

CHRIS CURRAH - GONGESTIONAIRE
KATHY WALSH - COORDINATOR

Currah's Café and Restaurant was the 'go to' restaurant in Picton for many years. They were well known for their great steaks, delightful seafood and scrumptious desserts. Chris always said he never worked on Sundays, with one exception, Mother's Day. The restaurant was always filled to capacity for this extravaganza of delicious food. You were greeted with a mimosa, then off to the buffet for salmon, mussels, roast beef, eggs Benedict, salads, fresh fruit and muffins. Chris was also very generous to the community. Many great dinners were hosted by Chris in support of the Friends of the Picton Library. Fine wines from around the world were paired with great food from the same region. His 'trees' at the Festival of Trees were legendary. Gift baskets with wine, gift certificates and Christmas decorations were always sought after.

Chris Currah has brought that same expertise to Sandbanks Park. The Park Store is always teeming with campers either picking up an item they left at home or enjoying one of their delicious meals. A tasty break from campfire cooking.

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

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Sandfest 2013

Don Metcalf

Friends of Sandbanks Provincial Park



Wednesday morning, July 10, broke on a cloudy, somewhat dreary day. I was beginning to think that this may be the first time in seven years that I would be forced to cancel the annual Sandfest event. Having loaded up the car with ropes, marking pegs and a variety of shovels, I decided to press on with fingers crossed while evoking a silent prayer to the local meteorological 'gods'. While driving to the site, I had noticed that south of Picton, the roads and surrounding farmland was dry and unscathed by any early morning down pour. The first good sign that things might turn out as one would hope.

As soon as I reached the site at the Outlet River end of the beach,

I was greeted by Mark Powell and his family eagerly awaiting my arrival. He commented that this was the first time he had ever arrived before me and as he had come all the way from Belleville and I from just the east side of the County, I congratulated him on his punctuality. He also stated that the local satellite weather report indicated if and when any precipitation were to occur, it would be late that afternoon. A second positive omen.

Just as we were pegging down the quadrants, Janet arrived and was anxious to begin sorting out the participation awards back at the Nature Shoppe. She said that Penny would join her later on and they'd have everything organized by the time the event was winding down. Despite the overcast sky, this was a third sign that this was going to be one marvellous day.



The sculpting and forming wasn't to take place until 10:00 but around 9:30, a few beach stragglers came down to the site and began asking questions (cost? starting/finishing time? etc.) then soon began working on a few projects. In the past I have experienced a pause just before ten o'clock when the site is somewhat void of participants. It is during this 'lull' that one begins to question the numbers of participants. I reflected back to the comments made earlier by the dump truck driver who claimed he was doubtful if there would be any rain and besides the Park was filled to capacity with 'Happy Campers'! Not only had he impeccably cleaned up the beach but he had tilled the surface to an even, workable finish. Just what I needed - another positive sign.

It's funny how certain timed events dictate human behaviour but with the minute hand hovering around 9:58, the flow of excited and smiling campers trudged, ran and swarmed onto the site. A beehive of activity began in earnest and soon were created displays of mermaids, castles, geckos, sports cars, cartoon characters and a giant alligator complete with mussel-shell teeth! As the time wound down and prizes presented, late arrivals for other beach activities marvelled at the display of sculpted forms created in the cool, damp sand. Many felt proud of their accomplishments and first-time participants vowed they would return the following year to upgrade/expand their creations. It was a delightful event with well over 100 men, women, children and teens participating. The morning clouds surrendered to a bright afternoon sun spotlighting the creative endeavours of the morning artists. My concerns for a rain delay had drifted away with the clouds.

My thanks to Mark Powell, Janet Mooney, Penny and Neil Sipkes for their organization and moral support and to the Park Staff, in particular, Assistant Park Superintendent, Aggie Bortolussi and Park Superintendent, Robin Reilly.

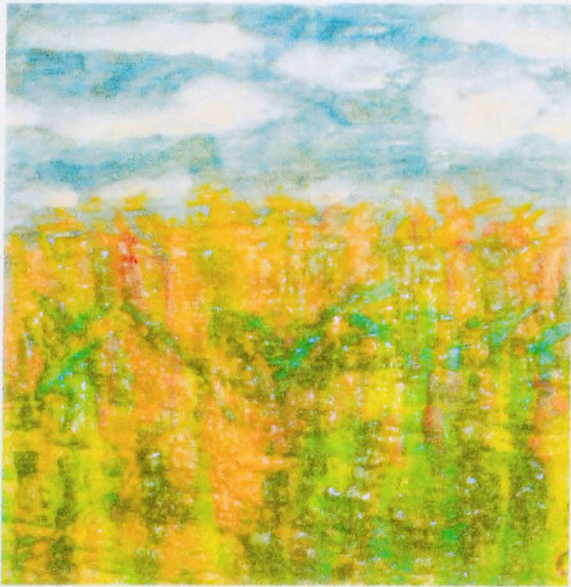


YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE OPENING OF

**SCENES OF SANDBANKS
BEYOND THE HARVEST
ORIGINAL ART SHOW AND SALE
on NOVEMBER 1st, 2013 from 5-8pm
BLACK PRINCE WINERY
13370 Loyalist Parkway, Picton**

The show will continue
November 2 to December 1, 2013
Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays
From 11am to 5pm
Proceeds from the show will be directed to the
Friends of Sandbanks Provincial Park
Towards the lakeshore lodge trail

'SEPTEMBER CORN' CRAYON ENCAUSTIC BY CYNTHIA DINSDALE



Participating Artists

David Boorne
Mary Brett
Carol Burrill
Pat Busscher
Florence Chik-Lau
Margaret Coon
Pauline Dinham
Cynthia Dinsdale
David Drown

Theresa Durning
Tom Field
David Gilbert
John Gregg
Doug Johnson
Sharon Kennedy
Amélie Koning de Bourbon
Mia Lane
Dana Law

Steven Loney
Wayne McNulty
Ilona Mayer
Gilles Miramontes
Maggie Murdoch
Don Pinder
Judy Plomer
Michelle Rees
Jason Rees

Kirei Samuel
Marjorie Cluett Seguin
Evelyn Sloane
Helen Steinberg
Jan Swenson
Colleen Wilder
Mel Wilder

The premier Art Event of the Autumn season is **Scenes of Sandbanks**, now in its 13th year. Thank you to the artists for their talent and generosity and to Black Prince Winery for hosting this event. Please join us at the opening on Friday, November 1, from 5pm-8pm. The premise of the show is to promote **Harvesting In The County**. The County has a rich history and a great future in its agriculture, from the early Barley Days to the present Grape Growing era. Works of art that celebrate this wonderful cornucopia of historical and pictorial uniqueness, the changing Autumn season, the wonders of Harvesting in the County all around us will be exhibited. In her book the Sentinel, Jane Urquhart says that the first harvest is boulders. So there can be many themes on a harvest. The wonderful crimson of the maple trees, the gold stands of wheat in a field, the threatening storm clouds that herald the gales of November, the kaleidoscope of colours of fruit and veggies at the local road side stands, the royal purple of grapes bursting with juice.

Black Prince Winery has been our major sponsor for many years. Geoff Webb and his wonderful staff bend over backwards to ensure that the show goes on without a hitch. Black Prince Winery is celebrating 10 years of wine service to the County as they opened their doors to the public in October 2003. Their name derived from a wish to choose a name which was relevant to The County but 'Prince Edward Winery' seemed a bit too generic. Diligent research of the history of the Royal 'Edwards'... found that The Black Prince was an Edward, eldest son of Edward III, who became a legend in his own lifetime. He was one of the most successful commanders during the 100 years war (Battles of Poitiers & Crecy) and a model of both chivalry and courtesy. He also ruled over a large area of Aquitaine which included Bordeaux, so the relevance to wine was a deciding factor and our prince was found. So with the name in place, land purchased, vines planted and a fully operational winery was created. In 2002, Black Prince Winery began planting 10 acres of grapevines on a fertile, sandy loam ridge in Picton, Ontario. Some re-planting was done over the next few years and vineyard now includes Chardonnay, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Chambourcin, Marechal Foch, Seyval Blanc and Vidal. You are invited to wander out onto the raised deck with a glass of one of their delicious wines and enjoy the view of the vineyard. As well as growing their own grapes, they also offer wines from their vineyard partners in this lovely area. This co-operative effort allows smaller growers the opportunity to make wine to their specifications and market this wine under their own label in BPW's facility. Recently Doug and I tasted another co-operative product. 'Vin and Sail' a dark ale made by Barley Days Brewery and aged in Black Prince Winery Pinot Noir Barrels. A very food friendly ale, reminiscent of Guinness.

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October 19 to the 26 DISCARTE
The show and sale is a fundraiser for the library and the Authors Festival, and a unique one as well, taking place upstairs at Books & Co., Picton.

October 25, 26, 31, November 1 & 2
The County Theatre Group presents 'BLOOD BROTHERS' at the Regent Theatre. It is a musical written by Willy Russell, based loosely on the Alexandre Dumas novella The Corsican Brothers. The story revolves around twins who are separated at birth and grow up at opposite ends of the social spectrum.

November 1-24, 2013 FALL COUNTYLICIOUS
A celebration of fine dining featuring prix fixe menus. County chefs have created unique three course prix fixe menus consisting of an appetizer, entrée and dessert, offered at \$30 or \$35 per person.
www.countylicious.ca

Friday, November 22 and Saturday, November 23, 2013 : 10AM-9PM COUNTY FESTIVAL OF TREES
Sunday, November 24, 2013, 10AM-2PM
Isaiah Tubbs Resort, West Lake, Silent Auction, Free Admission.
Silent auction of decorated Christmas trees, bucket draw, boutique, bake and preserves sale. Sponsored by the Prince Edward County Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, with all proceeds going to support healthcare needs in our community. **Look for the Friends of Sandbanks Tree.**

Black Prince

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WASSAIL
November 23 & 24, November 30 & December 1 and December 7 & 8.
Once again county wineries will be celebrating the end of the growing season and the burying of the vines. Tour the wineries and sample new vintages, mulled wines, Christmas treats, shop for wine, stocking stuffers, and assorted gifts.



The Friends of Sandbanks Park AGM is set for Tuesday December 10th at Maple Rest. Short meeting, Pot-luck dinner, good friends, good fun!

More summer memories of Lakeshore Lodge Days



Sack Race [L]
Yvette observing the 'Hammering Challenge' a real nail-biter! [R]

