



BETWEEN FRIENDS

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

Spring into Summer 2015

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

2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mark Despault	Chair	613-476-1509
John Drechsler	Vice-Chair	613-476-0460
Brian McLaughlin	Treasurer	613-399-2438
Don Metcalf	Secretary	613-476-4423
Penny Sipkes	Past Chair; Nature Shoppe Co-Manager	613-393-5774
Agneta Sand	Director; Nature Shoppe Co-Manager	613-476-7133
Janet Mooney	Director; Nature Shoppe Co-Manager	613-399-9099
Neil Sipkes	Membership Co-ordinator	613-393-5774
Evelyn Sloane	Newsletter Editor	613-476-3277

2015 MEETING DATES

The Friends of Sandbanks Park meetings are usually held the first Tuesday of the month at the Park Office. The AGM is held offsite in December and is a pot-luck dinner. Great food and good fun. 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. Due date for the next newsletter is August 15, as Doug & I will be away in September for a while!

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.

Public Relations - John Brebner has agreed to take on this role and hopes to work with Evelyn to have the newsletters on-line, perhaps the fall newsletter.

Photos throughout the newsletter were taken by John Brebner, Penny Sipkes and the NHE staff.

Hello Fellow Friends,

It has been a long, cold winter and now with spring setting in, the friends of Sandbanks Park are once again making plans for another busy summer season of projects and activities.

If it has been a year since you visited the park, you will notice several improvements have been implemented within the park. Many km's of trails have been resurfaced with stone dust [a fine packing gravel] making trail surfaces more user friendly for cyclists and pedestrians. As well, the new Lakeview Trail has been completed and is waiting for visitors to explore the Lake Ontario shoreline. Eventually, interpretive signs will be added to the trails, as well as lookouts and benches.

If you find yourself at the Lakeshore Lodge Day Use area, you will notice new interpretive signs, explaining the history of the site and presenting details about the various structures that once resided there. Lakeshore Lodge was once a thriving tourist facility complete with horses stables, dance hall, lodge, outdoor pool and courts for shuffleboard and tennis.

In the autumn of 2014, the Friends once again partnered with park staff to plant more trees and shrubs in the west area of the park. Planting will continue in years to come, throughout this area of the park, as part of the long term reforestation plan. Amongst the species planted were several hundred Butternut trees, now endangered in Ontario.

On behalf of the board of Directors, I would like to salute Doug and Evelyn Sloane for organizing the fabulous Scenes of Sandbanks art show for many years. The art show was a great fund raiser for the Friends and was held for the last time in the fall of 2014. I would like acknowledge Doug & Evelyn's hard work for producing this event and thank them for their years of service to the Friends of Sandbanks Park.

Please make a point of dropping into our gift shop located next to the park office and chat with our summer students. They can give you tips and suggestions for things to do and places to visit in the park.



Curral's
613-393-8956

**Look for us at the Outlet Store & Grill,
the Dunes Grill & Patio,
and the Snack Cart under the
umbrella at Sandbanks Beach.**

Membership Renewal Time

Once again, we find ourselves at the annual Friends of Sandbanks membership renewal time. If your membership requires renewing there is a coloured membership slip enclosed for your use. Membership is an integral part of any organization and monetary support through membership is very important. All levels of government are cutting back on their support of not for profit groups. Today, more than ever, your financial support is needed to ensure that the Friends of Sandbanks Park will continue to flourish and grow. Membership in the Friends is a material way that you can support the work of our group. Your support in our work is important to the Friends and indicates community support to other funding sources. Membership is still only \$10.00 for a single, \$15.00 for a family. With the current mailing costs, a fair bit of this fee goes to mailing out newsletters and your membership card(s). If you don't require a membership card, please note it on your form. You will still be eligible for the shop discount, as we keep a current list of members at the shop. We have plans to have the newsletter put on our web page but our small board is busy with many other projects and events. On that note, if you would like to help the Friends in some capacity, please let us know.

<p>Charlie Thompson, B.A. B.Comm. CA Partner</p> <p>Welch LLP Welch LLP - Chartered Accountants 290 Main Street Picton, ON K0K 2T0</p> <p>T. 613.476.3283 F. 613.476.1627 chompson@welch.on.ca www.welchllp.com</p> <p>An independent Member of BKR International</p>
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A group of Friends preparing for a hike in the Park last October.



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Robin Reilly explaining some of the finer points of Sandbanks.

Nature Shop 2015

With the shop opening on Mother's Day, we are busy looking for new items. We always try to bring in new books, 'stuffies', toys and t-shirt designs, as well as keeping some of the old standbys such as our Sandbanks logo patch, pin and keychain. Last year we introduced two new tee shirts, designed by our own Agneta Sand - a marram grass design and a Sandbanks 'S' with campfire. Expect to see these designs again but on different items. Nowhere else can you get a Frisbee-like flyer with a Sandbanks imprint. Remember, your membership in Friends of Sandbanks Park gives you a 10% discount in the shop. The shop is open weekend afternoons from Mother's Day till mid-June and Labour Day till Thanksgiving and full time mid-June till Labour Day.

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The kayak raffle draw with Bradley Fauteux, Managing Director of Ontario Parks and Penny Sipkes. Thank you to Clear Water Design for their generosity.



Another wonderful kayak will be raffled this summer. Tickets will be available at the Nature Shoppe.



Don Metcalf talks to an enthralled audience about the finer points of making sand castles. Sandfest is a highlight of the summer season at the park.

Circle of Friends 2014

Approximately every other year Ontario Parks encourages a Friends of parks organization to convene a Circle of Friends. Circle brings together representatives from various Friends groups from across Ontario, to meet and compare notes as well as learn from each other.

This past October, was the first time the Circle of Friends has been held here at Sandbanks. Previous get together so have been held in Killarney, MacGregor Lake and Algonquin Provincial Parks.

The weekend started with a bursary award presentation to some of the exceptional summer students who worked in provincial parks, all over Ontario. Generally each year, 12 students are helped with their education expenses through these bursaries which are made possible with donations from Ontario Parks, Friends organizations (including Sandbanks) and corporate partners of Ontario Parks such as Coleman and Canadian Tire.

The Director of Ontario Parks, Bradley Fauteux, gave an inspiring speech after dinner followed by some 'ice breaker' activities to give folks a chance to get to know each other. Saturday and Sunday mornings were spent in workshops on topics ranging from social media to event planning and volunteering. Saturday afternoon everyone headed to Sandbanks for a park tour and learn about some of the challenges and on-going projects that the Friends and park staff are involved with. Saturday evening was topped off with a concert by the Wakami Wailers.

All and all, we had fun, made lots of friends and walked away with a wealth of new knowledge and ideas. We are definitely looking forward to the next Circle of Friends!

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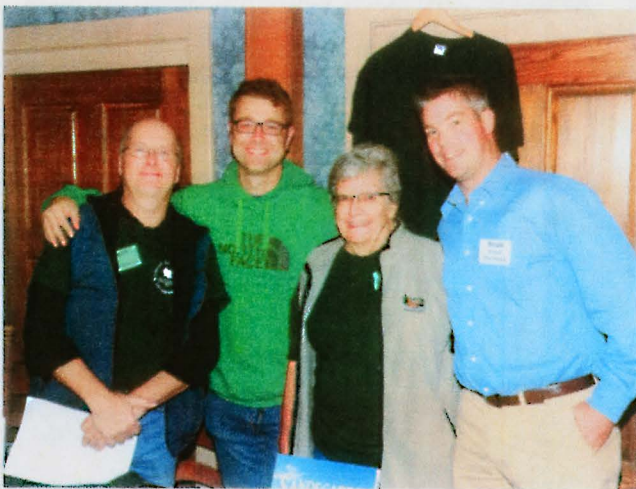


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Opening the Lakeview trail John Dreschler and Friends



VIP's at Circle of Friends



Wakami Wailers-Rob Hollett & Mark Despault

In 1981, four employees at Wakami Lake Provincial Park, near Chapleau, Ontario, formed the Wakami Wailers to interpret Canada's colourful history through songs and stories. In 1984, WW were commissioned by the Government of Ontario to develop a musical interpretation of the province's rich white pine lumbering heritage. They developed the interpretive showcase "The Last of the White Pine Loggers", and toured extensively throughout Ontario. This show has since been enjoyed by audiences throughout North America, from Epcot Center in Florida, to Expo 86 in Vancouver. In 1985, they were retained by Parks Canada to develop a musical play depicting 100 years of Canada's National Parks history.

The summer of 2015 will see some changes in the Natural Heritage Education (NHE) department. Some of those changes may not even be noticed by park visitors, but we hope you'll take advantage of at least some of them.

The major change is that educational programs are going from a two-week schedule down to one week. In the past, programs have been presented daily throughout the summer on a two week rotation, meaning that the same program was repeated every two weeks, hopefully when one set of campers had left and the next ones arrived. Although you may be one of the few lucky campers that have managed to secure a longer stay, we find that our visitors just aren't staying for as long as they used to. In our new setup, programs will be repeated after just one week, but if you're here for longer, we've added more during that week, so you should be able to pick and choose throughout your stay. Also new this year, will be a rainy day program. Drop by the Visitor Centre to discover what's under the tent and enjoy the park even when the beach isn't an option. If you've never been to one of our programs, this is the year to check them out – we've got **lots** of exciting things planned!

Of course, there will be some exceptions to the weekly schedule. Theatre in the Park, for example, will only be presented every other week. A children's story hour and a traditional film night will alternate on Saturday evenings. Some last minute changes may also be necessary to accommodate staff schedules. The master program schedule can be found on Page 10 of this year's park tabloid, but always check the bulletin boards around the park for the most up-to-date information.

Preparing fewer programs means that we will have some extra time for other projects that we are trying to complete. Look for new interpretive panels on the beach and outside the Visitor Centre. We're also working on panels at West Point, where we'll be illuminating the enchanting past of the Lakeshore Lodge. It was destroyed by fire in 1983, but remnants of the once popular lodge can still be seen. The Visitor Centre will again be open daily throughout the summer (half days on Wednesdays). This is still the best place to find out more information about the park and surrounding area, as well as the place to shop for souvenirs, clothing, books, kid's toys, etc. at the Friends of Sandbanks' Nature Shop.

We have added to our trail system in the last few years, so perhaps you can take a walk or cycle along one of them with a camera and a pair of binoculars. Cedar Sands and Dunes Trails both have guides that will help you discover the features around you; Woodlands and Lakeview can be bicycled and there is now a trail connecting Richardson's Campground and Dunes Beach. These trails mean that leaving your car behind is even easier. NHE staff monitor all of these trails to ensure that they are safe, guides are available and that visitors will enjoy their experience.

Park staff, with NHE often taking the lead, are also responsible for many resource management projects. If you've been coming to the park for a few years, look around and see if you can spot some of the differences. Trees have been planted, fencing erected and Marram Grass established to protect the dunes. Walkovers to the beach have been created to reduce erosion and many hours are spent removing invasive species such as Garlic Mustard, Dog Strangling Vine and Buckthorn.

A new campground is being created at Sandbanks and we are working hard to make sure that we reduce or eliminate any negative impacts of construction to the environment. You may not be able to see all the changes that are taking place, but we hope that you will get out in **your** park: enjoy the trails, the programs, and of course, the beach. Here's looking forward to a great summer!



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NHE Staff at our annual lakeshore Lodge Day



Dunes Trail



Invasive species removal

On a guided walk



The Back Page

May 10, Mother's Day Walk. Nature Shoppe/Visitor Centre & Lakeshore Lodge.

9:00 am Birdwatching Tour Meet at West Point near Lakeshore Lodge remains. Bring your binoculars and a camera.

9:00 am to 4:00 pm the Nature Shop opens for the first time this year with brand new merchandise. Join us for a coffee and a treat while browsing. Located just past the Park Office in with the Visitors' Centre.

2:00 pm Wildflower Walk Meet at the Visitor Centre with a vehicle. Don't forget your camera. Park naturalists will take visitors on the walks giving you a close-up view of some of the flora and fauna of our wonderful park.

Check out the Museums of The County - Five Sites - Hundreds of Stories!

The Museums of Prince Edward County are five unique museums, located throughout the municipality. In scenic surroundings, they interpret the community's dynamic heritage with settlement dating from the late 18th Century. Visit: Ameliasburgh Historical Museum and Pioneer Village; Macaulay Heritage Park; Mariners Park Museum; Rose House Museum and Wellington Heritage Museum. The museums also offer summer camps for children 7-12 years old.

Prince Edward County is a world class birding location! To date, over 370 species have been spotted.

Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory events -

April 11 - May 30 : Observatory open for Spring Banding

May 16-24: Spring Birding Festival

Aug 15-Oct 30 : Observatory open for Fall Banding

May 24 Friends of the Picton Library Quality Book Sale. 10-2 at the front of the library. Donations of books gratefully accepted. For more info call Doug Sloane at 613-476-3277.

June 6 & 7; Great Canadian Cheese Festival, Crystal Palace

July 8 Sandfest. Mouth of the Outlet River. 10:00 am -12:30pm. Family fun sand sculpture event. Small entrance fee. Bring your shovels and pails. Participation prizes for everyone

July 30 WI Craft Show, Picton Arena

August 5 Lakeshore Lodge Day at the Location: Lakeshore Lodge grounds, West Point 1:00 pm till 4:00 pm. Popular celebration of bygone times. Join in the 1890's picnic with music and family games.

Traditional games include potato sack race, over and under race, rolling pin toss, tug-of-war and more.

Fun for adults and children alike. Corn

cooked over an open fire and lemonade will be for sale at a nominal fee.

20th Anniversary Fun Run Sunday, September 13. Register from 8:00 till 9:45 am in front of the Currah's Park Store inside Sandbanks Provincial Park. Terry Fox run held concurrently. 5k and 10k run in support of the Friends of Sandbanks at one of the most beautiful run locations anywhere.

A look at some of the wonderful art work at the last Scenes of Sandbanks at Black Prince Winery.

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