

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF BONNECHERE PARKS

SPRING 1998

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In the just-released Strategy for the Tourism Industry in the Upper Ottawa Valley, consultants Coopers & Lybrand discuss the increasing demand for cultural and heritage experiences by travellers to this region. This strategy reflects well on the efforts of the Friends because over the past few years we have focused many of our efforts on enhancing the cultural mosaic of this community. Collecting and publishing the stories of the people who have called this land home for centuries has opened up new worlds and opportunities for the Park, the people who visit, and those who live nearby. As we look to the next millennium, our goal is to maintain this momentum and expand the facilities and collections we have established.

But, as one Board member reminded us at a recent Friends meeting, Bonnechere Park is not just about "that cultural stuff" — it's about FUN too!" And so it is. Fresh air, clean water, sandy beaches, shaded campsites, evening campfires, interpretive programs, special events and great hospitality. It's all here.

On a personal note, my family and I will spend a week in a rustic cabin at Bonnechere this summer. Perhaps I'll keep a Bonnechere diary and feature the highlights in an upcoming issue. Then again, maybe I'll leave the keyboard at home, and just enjoy the fun stuff!

Betty Biesenthal, Editor

July 4: A Day of Discovery and Memories

Saturday, July 4, promises to be a special day at Bonnechere Park. It will be the culmination of eighteen months, and hundreds and hundreds of volunteer hours invested in our most recent publication: **Discover the Spirits of the Little Bonnechere — A Cultural Activity Book for Youth**. The idea for this book originated with Rory Mackay's manuscript, *Spirits of the Little Bonnechere*, which has sold over its release in 1996. It's a wonderful story obviously delighted to hear and read. And it presented a timely opportunity to expand our circle of friends — to reach out to the young people in our community and teach them about the Bonnechere's cultural riches which are so taken for granted.

Geared to young people age 8 to 15, *Discover the Spirits* is filled with interesting and fun-filled activities for the whole family to be enjoyed at the Park, at home or at school. Already, Natalie Boudens, one of our summer staff has conducted interpretive programs with the classes at Our Lady of Lourdes in Pembroke to overwhelming success. The following is from the book's introduction:

"When we write in a diary, take pictures at birthdays and christenings, or tell our children about the games we played as kids on snowy winter mornings, we make a record of our lives. Through these simple everyday acts we pass the stories between generations and keep the past and the people who have gone before us alive. We learn to appreciate their struggles, understand their sorrows, and rejoice in their triumphs. The history of our country is the collection of these stories. This is our cultural heritage."

"*Discover the Spirits of the Little Bonnechere* takes you on a trip through time as we revisit one small part of this heritage. It is the history of the people who lived and died along the Little Bonnechere River from 5000BC to today".

"And what a journey it is! We start by digging into the amazing science of archaeology. Then, we learn how Natives developed ways to survive in the harsh Canadian environment and in doing so created a rich culture that sustains them still. We meet the vibrant, free-wheeling and hard-working entrepreneur of the fur trade: the French coureur de bois. We follow the journey of a white pine from

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DISCOVER: The Book

Ontario Parks have long been recognized for their excellence in natural heritage education. Guided hikes, interpretive talks and evening campfires provide lasting memories for park visitors. Our success in delivering first-class programming is very dependent on utilizing the resources unique to each park. Research activities within a park can provide excellent data from which programs can be developed. Often much of this interesting information only makes an appearance at such programs. All too often it remains hidden away in our archives. It is then that a "Friends" organization can greatly enhance access to this information by creating publications utilizing this material.

In 1996, the Friends of Bonnechere Parks, with much appreciated support of the Friends of Algonquin Park, published *Spirits of the Little Bonnechere — A History of Exploration, Logging and Settlement 1800 to 1920*, by author/educator Rory MacKay. Rory's work opened the door to the rich cultural history along the banks of the Little Bonnechere River. Presenting these stories to the visitors of the Park has provided a focus for our customer service staff.

We found however, that cultural information specifically focusing on our younger visitors was lacking. This need was addressed through the formation of a round table committee of volunteers who have contributed to the creation of the Friends of Bonnechere Parks' newest publication *Discover the Spirits of the Little Bonnechere — A Cultural Activity Book for Youth*. The creation and publication of this book reflects the innovative ways Friends can assist in positively protecting Ontario's valuable cultural resources.

Help us introduce the stories of the Bonnechere to a new generation of Friends.

Jim Fraser, Park Superintendent

the Bonnechere to a mast on one of England's Royal Navy ships. We watch as immigrants transform Basin Depot from a logging out-post to a small but thriving settlement. In the end, we are reminded that we must preserve these stories and our land for those who will come after us."

"Throughout the book we hear one insistent chord: the Bonnechere River as it flows through history. Join our host, Alex, on a trip through time in celebration of the human spirit. It's a wonderful journey you won't want to miss!

We've included two pages from the activity book to share with the young people in your circle of family and friends. If you enjoy them, be sure to pick up a copy on your next visit to the Park. To order by mail, call Betty at 613-732-9273. Funds raised from the sale of the *Discover the Spirits* will support the development of the **Cultural Resource Centre** at Bonnechere Park. *Wholesale orders welcome.*

Introducing the Annual Board of Directors Award

The Friends of Bonnechere Parks Board of Directors is introducing an award which will recognize the outstanding efforts of people who contribute generously of time and spirit to Park initiatives. This annual award will be dedicated to the memory of Helen and Peggi Armstrong who gave so much to this organization, thus setting the standard for all recipients. The award presentation will be made each August at our Annual General Meeting. However, it will be introduced and dedicated on **July 4, at Bonnechere Park**, in the presence of the Armstrong family who will be attending the book launch.

The design of the award will be based on Peggi's saucer — a circa 1880 saucer which was unearthed by Peggi Armstrong at the 1996 Basin Depot dig. About 5.5" round, the saucer will be embossed with the Park logo encircled in a ring of arrowheads and pine cones. The arrowheads symbolize the earliest cultures of the Bonnechere, while the pine cones represent preservation of this land for future generations. Potter Dan Hill of nearby Wilno will craft these limited edition pieces, while woodworker Don Burchat, also of Wilno will create the wood plaque which will be engraved for permanent display at Bonnechere Park. Each recipient will receive their personal saucer in recognition of outstanding achievements.

Notes from our friends at the Ontario Archaeological Society, Ottawa Chapter:

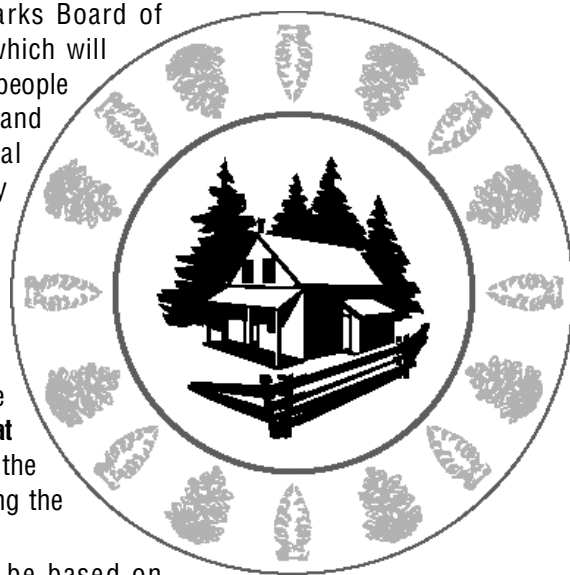
A representative of the Ottawa Chapter will be joining us on July 4, to show us the Peggi Armstrong Public Archaeology Award which was bestowed on our archaeological advisor, the late Helen Armstrong.



Archaeology Days will be returning to Bonnechere Park on August 15 with some new activities and lots of fun.

To learn more about OAS summer activities call Marion Clark: 819-682-0562, or visit the Ottawa Chapter web site at: www.cyberus.ca/~jlpilon/otchh.htm.

At left: From the dedication of *Discover the Spirits of the Little Bonnechere*, by Kara Fraser.



Discover the Valley's Hidden Treasures

The following events are highlights from our 1998 Bonnechere Park Calendar of events — plan to join us and be sure to tell

your friends. Keep in mind you will require a Valid Daily Permit or Camping Permit to participate in most of these activities. For additional info or event updates call 613-757-2103. Come out and help make our summer a success!

Saturday, July 4: Discover the Spirits

Join us for our book launch of *Discover the Spirits of the Little Bonnechere* at 11am, followed by a hot dog lunch. The evening program will feature stepdancing by KIDS FROM THE VALLEY at 8pm.

Saturday, July 11: Artist-in-the-Park Painting Workshop

Hershel Payne will host the first of several art workshops at 10am. Pallet and brushes will be supplied — just pack your creativity.

Saturday, July 18: Take a Hike, Eh!

Celebrate Parks Day by participating in this national project sponsored by the Canadian Parks Partnership. This year the Friends are hosting two hikes: a 5 to 6km (2-hour) walk to High Falls on the Bonnechere River, departs Basin Depot in Algonquin Park at 10am. Our second hike is on the water: a 2-hour paddle up the Bonnechere (bring your own canoe or kayak). Wear comfortable clothing and footwear to reflect the weather, and bring plenty of sunscreen.

Saturday, July 25: Spirits Night

Do some time-travelling into the past on a journey hosted by some of the colourful characters who lived at Basin Depot a century ago! 8pm at the Depot.

Friday, August 7: Peter Puffin

Lively and fun-filled musical stories for young and old alike. Evening program, 8pm at the Davenport Centre.

Saturday, August 8: Friends Festival

This event is getting bigger every year. Following the 11am Friends' Annual General Meeting and hot dog lunch, the summer fiesta begins! It's an afternoon of arts, crafts, books, displays, home baking, water sports, and lots of summer fun on the beach at Bonnechere. A great chance to catch up with your Park friends.

Saturday, August 15: Archaeological Experience '98 (kid-style)

Hosted in cooperation with the Ottawa Chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society, this day-long workshop for kids provides hands-on experience and a chance to observe a sample excavation. Learn aboriginal cooking techniques and make a clay pot.

Saturday, August 22: Come Howl at Bonnechere Park

Travel into Basin Depot in neighbouring Algonquin Park, with host Mike Runtz, for a memorable outdoor experience. The erie sound of a pack of wolves howling in the moonlight will stay with you for a lifetime!

Thursday, August 27: Bonnechere Park Paint-In

The Eastern Central Ontario Art Association will host a PAINT-IN amidst the natural beauty of scenic Bonnechere Park.

Saturday, September 19: Archaeological Experience '98 (the real stuff)

Now an annual fall tradition at Bonnechere, the September dig is a wonderful opportunity to experience archaeology first-hand. Hosted with the support of the OAS, Ottawa Chapter.

KIDS CAMP

Lumbering Along, Bear Necessities,
A Pine in the Neck! (Groan!)

No, those aren't the hot new video releases, they're just a few of the fun topics that children can explore at our ever-popular **Kid's Camp**. From June 20 thru August 22, 10:00am to 11:30am, Kid's Camp offers a host of interesting and fun-filled programs:

Tuesdays: *Surf'n Sand*

Thursdays: *A Glimpse of the Past*

Saturdays: *Nature Detectives*

Also, children of all ages who relish a good bedtime story will enjoy **Night Cap** — a great way to close the day. On alternate Friday evenings beginning July 10, 8:00pm to 8:30pm. Bring your blankie!

Hot Summer Schedule!

The events highlighted on the calendar at the right are only part of the Summer of '98 at Bonnechere. Every week from June 21 through Labour Day, the Park offers a full slate of things to see and do:

Tuesdays:

10:00am to 11:30am: Kids Camp

2:00pm to 3:00pm: Meet the Naturalist

Wednesdays:

8:00pm to 9:00pm: Evening Program

Thursdays:

10:00am to 11:30am: Kids Camp

2:00pm to 3:00pm: Meet the Naturalist

Fridays (alternate weeks):

8:00pm to 9:00pm: Campfire

8:00pm to 8:30pm: Night Cap

Saturdays:

10:00am to 11:30am: Kids Camp

10:00am to 11:30am: Artist-in-Residence Workshop (every second week beginning July 11)

8:00pm: Evening Program and Special Events



SATURDAY, JULY 18

WANTED

Artifacts suitable for outfitting The Depot. Circa 1830 to 1920.

Pioneer dishes, tools, furniture, photographs, maps and memories.

Excellent care guaranteed!

Most Park visitors are well aware of The Depot at Bonnechere: two authentic ranger cabins in a rustic woodland setting. Since their refurbishment, Park staff have used these cabins to host Spirit Nights and special events in an aura that harkens back to days gone by.

The Friends of Bonnechere Parks hopes to extend the use of these buildings by establishing a permanent collection of local artifacts which would be accessible Park visitors. In recent years, while conducting research for the various books we have published on local cultural history, it has become obvious that many area families, collectors and amateur historians have treasured items which tell the story of life in the Bonnechere Valley in centuries past. While many realize the value of what they have collected and saved, most are at a loss as to what should be done with such pieces. And while some artifacts are carefully catalogued and preserved, other are "lying at the bottom of the kitchen drawer."

Already we've made some amazing finds on our own — at Basin Depot and Bonnechere Park. And friends of the Park have been generous, too. Ancient arrowheads, pot shards, Peggi's saucer, photographs, post-cards, rustic furniture and logging tools. At this stage, even the smallest artifact is so important to us because it can tell so much of the story of who lived here and how the land treated them. So check you check you attic, basement, kitchen cupboards or garage — what you have there might be a museum piece!

The Old Wood Cook Stove

It wasn't that many years ago that the lumbermen of the Little Bonnechere River made a point of stopping in at the Lafleur homestead on Curriers Lake. Therein, brother Willie and sister Bella Lafleur would insist that one didn't leave before sitting down to a "wee bite to eat." The combination of fresh air, hard work and long days created healthy appetites for those forest workers. And while the meal was hearty and graciously served, it was ultimately the cookstove which provided the focal point for most visits, as everyone gathered 'round for warmth and polite conversation. Vern Eno, one of our current Park staff, vividly remembers the delicious aroma of the homemade bread and fresh pies which were baked in the Lafleur oven. In those times, to leave an Ottawa Valley homestead without accepting such hospitality, would have been an insult to the hosts, and a missed opportunity for the traveller!

Today, upon entering the Bonnechere Park Office you'll notice our very own Forest Beauty Stove — a treasured artifact from long ago. Generously donated by Friend and historian Rory MacKay, this stove was built by the Findlay Bros. Company Limited in nearby Carleton Place, Ontario. The large front cooking surface, combined with the bread oven at the rear, provided plenty of space for the skilled chefs of yesteryear. Although the years of kitchen service may be in the past for our stove, we hope that the hospitality it once bestowed is rekindled often at Bonnechere, today, and for years to come.

Many thanks to Rory for yet another generous contribution to the Park.

Art in the Park

The scenic landscapes of Ontario Parks have long fascinated and inspired Canadian artists of various levels of skill and recognition. While Tom Thomson was probably the most famous of these artisans, he and his work are among good company.

As you paddle quietly up the Bonnechere River on a summer afternoon, you may come across a gentleman in a beautiful cedar strip canoe, painting intently while delicately balancing his paint, brushes and canvas. Chances are you've just met Bonnechere's artist-in-residence, Herschel Payne, who spends many a summer's day creating new masterpieces in the remote wilds of the Bonnechere River watershed. These inspired works adorn the walls of many of our Park buildings.

It is with this in mind that the Natural Heritage Education Program will feature, on select Saturday mornings: **Artist-in-the-Park Painting Workshops**. During each one-and-one-half session, Herschel will instruct participants in the fundamentals of mixing colours and painting landscapes. Each visitor will leave the workshop with an appreciation for the use of colour, and their very own 5" x 7" *work of art!*

Those who are ultimately captured by the painting bug, won't want to miss the Eastern Central Ontario Art Association **Paint In** at Bonnechere Park on August 27.

TOP ONE HUNDRED

It's renewal time once again — all 1997 memberships expired as of April 31, 1998. This year we're putting on an extra push to increase our Friends. Use the enclosed form to renew your membership, but first make copies and pass them on. It's a great chance to **WIN BIG** and make new Friends for less money than you'll spend at a movie!

TOP ONE HUNDRED

Memberships provide the executive of any non-profit organization with much needed support for their work. Since its formation in 1994, membership in the **Friends of Bonnechere Parks** has held at approximately 55. This summer, Friends staff hope to increase participation in our organization by topping the one-hundred mark in paid memberships. As an extra incentive to members both new and old, if the goal is met all names will go into a draw for a **free weekend** in a Rustic Cabin at Bonnechere Provincial Park! But that's not all. Membership also includes receipt of the bi-annual **Circle of Friends** newsletter, which provides program and facility information, and a **10% discount** on all Friends merchandise at the Bookstore. Stay informed and keep in touch all year 'round by being a member of the Friends of Bonnechere Parks. You'll be in good company!

MEMBERSHIPS

Individual (\$10) please indicate new or renewal Family (\$15) please indicate new or renewal

Memberships benefits for individuals and families include:

- 10% discount on all purchases made at the Bookstore at Bonnechere Park,
- subscription to the Circle of Friends newsletter,
- invitations to Friends' special events, and
- voting rights at the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Bonnechere Parks.

SUPPORT

We invite you to support the Friends of Bonnechere Parks by giving a donation of your choice or a donation according to one of the following categories:

- Annual (\$35 to \$99) Supporting (\$100 to \$149)
 Donor (\$150 to \$249) Benefactor (\$250 and up)

If your donation is an In Memoriam, please print the name of the loved one:

Make cheques payable to the Friends of Bonnechere Parks. A tax receipt will be issued for all membership fees and donations.

▶
DONOR'S NAME

▶
ADDRESS

▶
CITY PROVINCE

▶
POSTAL CODE PHONE

VOLUNTEERS

As a charitable organization, we benefit a great deal from the volunteer efforts of a dedicated group of families, friends and campers who look upon Bonnechere Park as a special place. If you would like to become a part of our group, help out with a special event, or join our Board of Directors, please contact:

FRIENDS IN NEED, FRIENDS IN DEED

Established in 1992, The Friends of Bonnechere Parks is a community-based, non-profit, charitable organization. Our mission is to encourage and support the Crown's mandate and programs for interpretive, educational, scientific, historical, protection and preservation purposes related to the natural and historic resources of Bonnechere, Bonnechere River and Foy Provincial Parks. The operations of the Friends are authorized by Ontario Parks, and coordinated by a volunteer Board of Directors.

The focus of this year's activities is to raise funds towards the development of a Cultural Resource Centre at Bonnechere Provincial Park. Funds will be raised through grants and corporate sponsorships, membership fees, donations, bequests, and sales at the Bookstore at Bonnechere Park.

FRIENDS OF BONNECHERE PARKS, BOX 220, PEMBROKE, ON K8A 6X4
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