

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF BONNECHERE PARKS

FALL 2001

www.bonnecherepark.on.ca

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2002 will be a big year for both the Park and the Friends – we're calling it **35 and 10**. That's because throughout the summer and early fall we will celebrate the 35th anniversary of the creation of Bonnechere Provincial Park and the 10th birthday of the Friends of Bonnechere Parks. Those of us who spend time at the Park have witnessed many changes over the years: increased services and facilities, and new and innovative programming. It's been exciting to watch Bonnechere's development into a community-oriented provincial park with a focus on protecting and promoting the natural and cultural heritage of the Little Bonnechere River.

For the past decade, an important factor in this development has been the support of the Friends of Bonnechere Parks. In 10 short years our dedicated group of volunteers have published four books and an interactive CD focusing on the Spirits of the Little Bonnechere, hosted a provincial conference on the economic benefits of Ontario's cultural heritage resources, supported the Park's participation in Adventures in Time travel packages, introduced a historic archaeology program to hundreds of students, acquired the historic Laffleur homestead, offered wilderness skills courses, and so much more. We're proud of it all, but couldn't have accomplished what we have without the help of many and the direction of our fearless leader – Jim Fraser.

I can't speak for the Park, but as we mark our first decade I know the Friends have just begun. And as any parent of a 10-year-old knows, "tweenies" are full of energy and ideas, anxious to explore new ideas, and at times incorrigible though always forgivable! And that's what we're all about! Plan to celebrate with us in 2002.

Betty Biesenthal, Editor

A Spirited Evening

Last summer, on a mid-August evening, over 200 Bonnechere campers and visitors gathered at the Park Depot for the 2001 edition of the Spirits Walk. Divided into two groups, these Spirit watchers travelled via a virtual time machine as they wound their way along a woodland trail dotted with theatrical diaramas. The Spirit guides for the evening, dressed in costumes of the future — circa 3001, were Park staff Cindy Bosma, Alison Voldock, Christina Carlson and volunteer Kara Fraser.

Covering the period 1600 to 1800, the first station marked the Voyageur era, which judging from the laughter and applause it generated, must have been a spirited time in Canadian history. Staff John Lesku and Adam Covell acted out the roles of Voyageurs — one French and one English-speaking. At the next stop, staff Phyllis Biernaskie portrayed surveyor James McNaughton on his quest to map the Bonnechere Valley, circa 1847.

The mournful diarama marking the 19th century deeply touched many of the viewers. Here volunteers Graeme Fraser and Lindsay Heubner portrayed the death of a 14-year-old logger and his grieving mother. Their story graphically illustrated the struggles of these early pioneers in their quest to survive a difficult way of life in the harsh Canadian wilderness.

The mood lightened once again with the portrayal of Josephine and Paddy Garvey who came to settle at nearby Basin Depot circa 1900. Staff Ian Covell and Jenn Dick touched on the colourful character of this man who was a legend of his time — especially in his own mind!

The last stop on this virtual journey was 2001, as presented by staff Becky Austen and volunteer Alison Covell who portrayed the struggle of balancing the needs of business and nature. In the end the characters were able to resolve their differences and walk away as friends, confident that each could compromise for the good of the other.

After the Spirits Walk, everyone was treated to the traditional fiddle music of Alana and Angela O'Grady and friends, and stepdancing by Ian, Allison and Adam Covell. Special thanks to Lynn Bliss for her help, to Jim Fraser for his support, and to all the participants who brought the spirits of the Little Bonnechere to life once more.

With contributions from Cindy Bosma and John Lesku.



Bonnechere Notes

I'm pleased to inform you that I've returned to Bonnechere Provincial Park as the Acting Park Superintendent while Jim is working as the Project Manager for the Ottawa River Landmark initiative under the Ontario Living Legacy program.

Since my last season at Bonnechere in 1998, I have worked as the Assistant Park Superintendent at McRae Point and Grundy Lake Provincial Parks. Both parks have provided me with different challenges, which I hope will assist me in managing Bonnechere and related parks.

It is a very exciting time at Bonnechere as we get closer to the year 2002 which marks the 35th Anniversary of the Park and the 10th Anniversary of the Friends of Bonnechere Parks. It is hard to believe that it was only ten years ago that Jim and I worked together on the 25th Anniversary celebrations and the Friends of Bonnechere Parks celebrated their official status as an incorporated non-profit organization.

Although Jim has a new job description I'm happy to share with you that he will be continuing as the Chairperson of the Bonnechere, Foy Property and Bonnechere River Management Planning Team and he has assured me that he will remain active with the Friends of Bonnechere Parks.

I look forward to working with the Friends during my term at Bonnechere.
Vicki Bradley, A/Park Superintendent

A New President for the Friends

After two years at the helm, Laurie Fraser has passed the presidency of the Friends to Olesia Van Dyke. Olesia and her extended family are long-time campers at Bonnechere Park who like to head out to the Park for day visits as well. Olesia is a private forestry consultant, wife, and mother of three teens. We welcome her aboard as we extend our thanks to Laurie for all her hard work and congratulate her for a job well done. Laurie is continuing on as Friends' secretary and Chair of the Education/Outreach Committee.

MANAGEMENT PLAN UP-DATE

Ontario's provincial parks are created for four main reasons: to protect natural and cultural features, to encourage heritage appreciation, to provide quality outdoor recreation opportunities and to enhance tourism. A park management plan identifies how individual parks contribute to these provincial objectives.

As a representative of the Friends of Bonnechere Parks and a long-time camper at the Park, I am enjoying being a part of the very important process of developing a management plan for Bonnechere, Bonnechere River and Foy Provincial Parks. We have been meeting since the early spring and are progressing well.

The Planning process follows five steps:

- Approval of the Terms of Reference;
- Preparation and Presentation of the Background Information Report;
- Identification of the Issues and Development of Options for dealing with them;
- Preparation of the Preliminary Management Plan for submission to the Ministry of Natural Resources; and
- Approved Management Plan ready for implementation.

Most recently, on November 3, an information meeting was held at the Davenport Centre to share the **Background Information Report** with local landowners, cottagers, business people and interested people. The report gives an overview of the local area, outlines the history and the natural features of the parks, and identified some of the issues facing us now and for the future.

Approximately fifty interested people came to learn about the process, hear the rationale for a proposed amalgamation of the three Parks under one management plan, and to air their concerns about the implications for the area and its residents. **Mark Stabb**, Park Planner explained the history of the Parks, the planning process and expectations for the outcome.

Other members of the planning team also spoke with those in attendance one-on-one, to hear their concerns and to express their support for the project. Everyone was encouraged to discuss their concerns and questions at the Information Centre or to submit their written comments to the Planning Team.

Over the next six to eight weeks, those comments and concerns will be amalgamated and added to those received from others. The team will meet to discuss the issues raised and propose some options for addressing them. Another Information Centre will be held to share these issues and options with the public again. Input from all sources will be considered in the preparation of the Draft Plan which will be submitted for approval in the spring of 2002.

If you have any questions, ideas, issues or concerns you feel the Planning Team should be considering, please send them to me at:

HYPERLINK "mailto:jane.duff@sympatico.ca"

jane.duff@sympatico.ca, or c/o

The Friends of Bonnechere Parks, Box 220, Pembroke ON K8A 6X4

Our Next Publication: *Walks of the Little Bonnechere*

In Spring 2002, the FBP will publish a unique guide to walking along the Little Bonnechere River which stretches from Round Lake, at Bonnechere Provincial Park, northwest to Algonquin Park. This 28-page guide will feature ten walks of various distances and level of difficulty at areas of historic and/or natural interest including Basin Depot, Egg Rock, the Lafleur Homestead and the Omanique Mill site. Authors **Rory Mackay** and **Mark Stabb** will write an historic and ecological overview of each walk, and colour photos, illustrations and maps will be used to animate various points of interest.

Many thanks to the **Friends of Algonquin** for their support of this publication. Additional community partnerships for this project are now being pursued.



Lavender Oak: A Bonnechere Valley Specialty

I know a real naturalist should not pick favourites but, if I was interrogated on a straight-backed chair under a blinding white light, I would have to admit that I have a favourite tree: the white oak (*Quercus alba*). Mature white oak trees are tall, straight and stately, with attractive grooved bark that seems to be bursting with arboreal strength. Its leaves are not pointed, serrated, or jagged in any way, but are pleasantly lobed with curved, rounded fingers. And southern flying squirrels love the acorns (Ouch! Quit twisting my arm! Yes, the squirrels are favourites of mine too!) Need I say more?

The Bonnechere River valley harbours some of the northernmost specimens of white oak in North America. White oak trees at Stevenson Lake are at the northern limit of their continental range. They share the slope with red oak (*Quercus rubra*) and bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*). The Bonnechere River Provincial Park boundary includes some, but not all, of this stand, which was identified as a significant feature in the Background Information Report for our parks' management plan.

How did the oaks get there? About 8000 years ago, after the retreat of the last glaciers, there was a warm period called the *hypsihermal*. Temperatures in the region were several degrees above today's norms. This balmy blip lasted for hundreds of years, long enough for plants and animals to respond to the climatic change and move north into suitable habitat. The ensuing cooling trend wiped out the more southern species, except where specific microclimates and environments mimic more typical habitats to the south.

Look at a topographic map of the Stevenson's Lake area and you might see why white oak has clung to survival far beyond its normal range. The steep rocky ridge on the lake's north shore faces almost due south and overlooks the broad flat Bonnechere River valley. Unimpeded by hills, the sun's rays heat the ridge for long hours during the day, and likely create a slightly longer growing season.

White oak was likely more widely distributed in the region, but now only inhabits this ridge and some nearby areas. The oaks do not resemble the grand specimens that reach high into the canopies of southern hardwood forests. Instead, many appear gnarly and bonsai-like with stems that hug the warming rock face. There are some mature trees around; their acorns have produced a healthy population of youngsters down the ridge.

If you want to find white oak up here, the best time is actually after leaf-fall. In late October and early November the small white oak trees hold onto their a pale grey-lavender leaves, which stand out amid the other barren, leafless branches.

This range-edge white oak stand may provide valuable research sites and genetic material to help the species cope with today's human-induced climate change. The oaks have already been the focus of educational tours. The park management plan will recognize and perhaps protect more of this significant population of white oak. And by protecting this habitat we may be protecting other interesting species. Because where there is white oak, southern flying squirrels — a rare species in Ontario — may not be far behind...

Contributed by Mark Stabb, Ecologist-at-Large.

Christmas Shopping?

Since this is the time of year for giving, the Friends make it easy to give in two ways. Make a purchase of books or CDs from the FBP and you get a tax receipt for the same amount.

Spirits of the Little Bonnechere: \$17.95

Discover the Spirits of the Little Bonnechere Activity Book for Youth: \$7.50

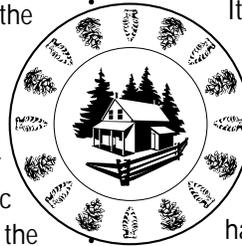
Visiting the Spirits Interactive CD: \$24.95

If you would like the complete the trilogy, it's available for \$45.00

To order, call Betty at 613-732-9273 or email dhouse@renc.igs.net.



Herschel Payne: Recipient of the 2000 FBP Directors' Award



It is a special honour to be the recipient of the Friends of Bonnechere Parks Directors' Award for 2001. Evolving from concert violinist to wilderness artist has been a natural transition

for me and I easily move from one discipline to the other.

During my concert career I had the experience of working with many celebrated international conductors and artists, and my approach to painting has been formed by my musical/artistic development. It is a technique of transference: the discipline of the violin to the structuring of colour, form and movement on canvas.

I feel privileged and fortunate to be the Artist-in-Residence at Bonnechere and to call this provincial park my artistic home. My main goal at Bonnechere has been to reveal through painting the special qualities of our area, to be an artistic ambassador of this park through the many workshops that I teach in Bonnechere, Algonquin and Ottawa, as well as hosting other artists such as the East Central Ontario Art Association every June.

Bonnechere Provincial Park is currently represented in my solo exhibition **Bonnechere, Algonquin** at the Algonquin Visitor Centre until June 27, 2002.

My plans for the future are to continue on as before, always doing whatever is necessary to protect and enhance Bonnechere Provincial Park.

NEW IN 2002: Friends Lending Library

Looking for a good book while you escape to the beach for a few quiet hours or relax in the shade on a quiet afternoon at Bonnechere Park? Then the Friends Lending Library is the place for you!

This camping season, books for "friends" of all ages will be available in the Friends Corner at the Davenport Centre. You can borrow one or two at a time and return them before you go home, or the next time you come back to the Park. Or, you can trade a book you've finished with for one you'd like to read: mysteries, romance, humour, history, non-fiction and so much more. A selection of children's books will also be available.

Ever wondered what to do with the family when the weather turns cool or wet on a Bonnechere summer afternoon? The Friends are gathering games for the lending library too. For a \$2.00 deposit, you can borrow games like Clue, Trivial Pursuit, Rumoli and many more. You will get \$1.00 back when you return the game, intact, to the bookshop at the Davenport Centre.

If you have books and/or games you would like to donate to our library, please bring them with you next time you are visiting the Park.

For more information or ways you can help, please contact Jane Duff at 613-732-4796 or [HYPERLINK "mailto:jane.duff@sympatico.ca" jane.duff@sympatico.ca](mailto:jane.duff@sympatico.ca).

Congratulations to the Bonnechere Museum

Preston O'Grady and fellow volunteers have recently celebrated the opening of the Bonnechere Museum, down-river at Eganville. We wish them well and look forward to working with them to promote and protect the riches of the Bonnechere River.

Be Sure to Pencil in These Dates for 2002

Weekend of May 4 — FBP & Friends Campout: Join the **Carleton Place Gang** in their annual campout at Bonnechere. Participants donate \$25 to the Friends and participate in a park cleanup on Saturday. In the evening, gather at the Davenport Centre for music and tall tales.

May Long-Weekend: Long-time FBP supporter, **Merril Burchat** is busy this winter constructing a pointer boat for use on the Bonnechere River. On the Victoria Day weekend Merrill and his nephews will paddle down-river arriving at the beach on Sunday afternoon to officially open the 35th operating season of Bonnechere Provincial Park.

Wednesday, June 12 – Eastern Ontario Artists Paint-In: Hosted by Artist-in-Residence Herschel Payne.

Saturday, June 22 – Staff Reunion Picnic and Walks of the Little Bonnechere Launch

Saturday, July 13 – Evening of Valley Music: Featuring area fiddlers.

Weekend of August 10 – Friends Festival with Friends Alumni Picnic: 10th Anniversary Celebrations

Saturday, August 17 – Spirits Night

Saturday, August 24 – Wolf Howl

Saturday, September 14 – Dig, Pig 'n Jig Weekend

For updates, check out: www.bonnecherepark.on.ca

Dig, Pig 'n Jig Apple Crisp

5 medium apples, peeled & sliced	3/4 c brown sugar, packed
2 tbsp lemon juice + zest of lemon	1 tsp cinnamon
1 tbsp brown sugar	1/2 c butter
1/2 c quick oats	1/3 c chopped nuts
1/3 cup dried cranberries	1/2 c flour

Slice apples into greased 8" or 9" pan. Sprinkle with sugar [1 tbsp], lemon juice and zest. In a bowl, combine oats, flour, brown sugar and cinnamon. Cut in butter until crumbly. Add nuts and cranberries, and spread over apple slices. Bake at 350° for 35-40 minutes.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

Wilderness Skills Course

As a result of popular demand, this special course for outdoor enthusiasts is being offered twice this year at the Ministry of Natural Resources office in Pembroke. The course features map and compass use, wilderness skills, Global Positioning Systems (GPS) along with a variety of other useful and potentially life-saving outdoor techniques. Two four-session courses run Monday and Wednesday evenings. The first session starts on January 28 and the second session begins February 11, 2002.

Course instructor and Master Canoeist **Fred Blackstein** will lead these sessions which are a modified version of those hosted for local Search and Rescue volunteers. The program is sponsored by the FBP.

For further information call Vicki Bradley at Bonnechere Park 613-757-2103 or pick up an application at the Ontario Government Information Centre, Ministry of Natural Resources, 31 Riverside Drive, Pembroke.

CONGRATULATIONS

Best wishes go out to Park Clerk **Shawna Conway-Warren** and her husband Andrew on the birth of their son Clark who was born on August 14, and weighed in at a healthy 10lb, 11oz!

And farewell to A/Park Superintendent **Brent Fredricks** who has taken a position with the Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre. We wish him well in his new career and look forward to seeing the family out at Bonnechere.

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

Congratulations to **Steven Duff** and **Brent and Cathy Fredricks** for winning the fall membership draw. This year's prizes are family packages to the Bonnechere Caves in Eganville. Have fun down under!