

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF BONNECHERE PARKS

FALL 2007

www.bonnecherepark.on.ca

Email to Editor: bettyb@nrco.net

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There is a saying that in recent years has been popularized by an American politician: "It takes a community to raise a child." Well, here in the Ottawa Valley, one could edit that expression to say: "It takes a family to nurture a provincial park."

In their 20 years at Bonnechere Park, Jim Fraser and his family went above and beyond to create an oasis featuring Ottawa Valley hospitality, rich in local natural and cultural heritage for the enjoyment of all who stopped along the Little Bonnechere. As Jim poured his all into creating a legacy that's sure to last many lifetimes, backing him were wife Laurie, and children Kara and Graeme, who I am sure sacrificed many a summer holiday for Jim's job. And he didn't stop there; Jim pulled in all resources over the years, including his father Alasdair, who was recognized for his efforts as recipient of this year's FBP Directors' Award. One could argue that, perhaps – for just one day – Bonnechere should be renamed to Fraser Family Provincial Park.

Looking forward, I am sure the best is yet to come. While Jim is no longer our Superintendent, he has promised to remain active as a member of the FBP Board. And, as we welcome our new Superintendent Paul Smith, we are confident that the future for Bonnechere looks bright, and that its legacy will only be enriched.

Betty Biesenthal, Editor

AFTER 20 YEARS, JIM FRASER LEAVES A LEGACY

Superintendent Jim Says So Long

This summer's 40th birthday celebrations at Bonnechere had a bittersweet component. Jim Fraser took part not as the party host but as guest of honour, for in early June, Superintendent Jim resigned his post at Bonnechere to assume the position of Area Supervisor - Southeast Area, MNR Kemptonville District.

Jim came to Bonnechere Provincial Park in 1987, and over the intervening years he nurtured and redeveloped this picturesque campground into one of Ontario's premier provincial parks complete with enhanced facilities, accommodation options, hiking trails, and a full slate of summer programming reflecting the Ottawa Valley's natural and cultural heritage.

In addition to his duties at Bonnechere Park, Jim was also superintendent of a dozen smaller provincial Parks in Renfrew County, including Foy Provincial Park at the east end of Round Lake, and Bonnechere River Provincial Park, a 23-km stretch of shoreline linking Algonquin and Bonnechere Parks. He also oversaw twelve other MNR-owned parcels of land that have the potential for Ontario Parks designation.

Jim was also one of the founding members of the Friends of Bonnechere Parks, established in 1994, and shortly thereafter, the Bonnechere Cultural Heritage Project. Spearheaded by a dedicated group of professional and avocational archaeologists, this project has been the catalyst for a wealth of archaeological-based programming along the River for more than a decade.

Over the years, Jim has spurred on many new initiatives for the Park and the FBP. "He is never short of ideas on how we can improve facilities at the Park or develop stimulating programs for our guests," say FBP President Ross Taylor. "Jim has a knack for pulling out the best in his staff and volunteers, reflecting his passion for this small corner of the Ottawa Valley."

We all wish Jim the very best in his new endeavours!



Friends of Bonnechere Parks
4024 Round Lake Road
RR5, Killaloe ON K0J 2A0





Notes from Bonnechere

As the new Park Superintendent of Bonnechere Parks, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I have worked for Ontario Parks for 16 years now, starting as an Interior Canoe Ranger in Algonquin Park. I then worked as a contractor at Achray Campground for five years. After this I moved to Emily Provincial Park as the Assistant Superintendent. Then, once more back to Algonquin as a Group Leader managing four campgrounds along the Highway 60 corridor. My family and I (wife Jessica, and children, Forest and Grace) live near Barry's Bay. My children have grown up enjoying various Ontario Parks across the province, and loved their introduction to Bonnechere this past summer.

The 2007 season at Bonnechere was a busy one. Our Natural Heritage Education staff, with help from the FBP, presented several well-received events: Valley Fiddling with Lyndon Coulas, Park Park with David Archibald, the annual Wolf Howl with Mike Runtz, and Archaeology For Kids with the OAS Ottawa Chapter. It all made for a very successful 40th year for Bonnechere Provincial Park.

In the off-season Park staff are working on a tabloid for the 2008 season, to better inform campers and daily visitors.

On behalf of Ontario Parks, I thank the FBP for their continuing support of Bonnechere Parks. One of the most exciting aspects as the new Superintendent, is the strong Friends organization that has flourished here. My goal is to provide continuing support and assistance to the FBP as we move forward. I am still getting to know who the FBP members are so please be sure to introduce yourself.

Once again thank you, and I look forward to meeting everyone in 2008!

*Paul Smith
Park Superintendent
Bonnechere Provincial Park*

All's Well, That Ends Well

To view more images, browse the 2007 Fall Hike photo album at: www.bonnecherepark.on.ca

The last weekend of September 2007 along the Bonnechere River was glorious, especially for the members of the OAS Ottawa Chapter and FBP who accepted an invitation to join former Park Superintendent Jim Fraser on a guided hike to the McGuey homestead and nearby Bridgedam. Also along for the day, were several local residents with family ties to the Basin community, Bonnechere Park campers, and a crew of students from the Algonquin College Outdoor Adventure Program on an field trip with archaeological expert Tom Ballantine.

From about 1875 to 1906, the McGuey family struggled to survive on this acreage 'back in the lumber' inside present-day Algonquin Park. Here along a narrowing in the Little Bonnechere River, they grew crops, ran a stopping place and worked in nearby lumber camps. And while our group hiked in to the farm along a somewhat overgrown access road built in the 1960s, the McGuey's would have used the older tote road along the river as their main transportation route.



Rory MacKay, who visited here in the 1970s as part of his early research work on the Bonnechere, remarked that the vegetation surrounding the farm had grown significantly since his last visit. Tom Ballantine noted that there were probably more people on the farm on this day in 2007, than had been there in over 100 years.

A scan of the fields revealed a number of apparent foundations, and near the location of the original house a number of small artifacts were found lying in the turf. Bonnechere Park's Paul Smith discovered a fine specimen: an old bottle (*photo at left*), which was promptly photographed and returned to the land to await recovery and study another day by an archaeologist willing to write a report. This day was to be one without paperwork.

Farther down the road, past some washouts, the group came to the Bonnechere River, where for many years a bridge crossed a dam: Bridgedam. Though time has taken its toll and the bridge no longer stands, Rory noted that he was able to drive over the structure when he visited in 1979. Underlying the few remaining supports of this most recent bridge are the much older foundations of the dam (*photo below*). Upon observing this marked change, Rory spoke of the importance of establishing just how long it had been since an elderly interview source had visited any "intact" historic site. (*con't on next page...*)



After a beautiful autumn walk back to the cars, the group drove back to Basin Depot for lunch and reminiscences of OAS Ottawa Chapter work on the site from 1996 to 1998. From here, Tom's crew of students set out for the LaFleur Homestead, site of Chapter digs only a few years ago, while the rest of the group stopped to view what was left of the buildings at Mount Pleasant View, Paddy Garvey's farm.

Beneath three very large spruce trees lay a mound delineating the old house. Nearby were other signs of human habitation, including an apparent foundation of a large outbuilding, and a neatly made stone foundation for what Ken Swayze speculated may have been the milk house. Most impressive of all was a stone-lined well (*photo at right*).



No better end to a perfect day exploring potential sites for archaeology could be had than the fine food and camaraderie of an evening spent with friends new and old. Jim Fraser's father Al, photographic recorder of many of our digs (as well as maker of coffee and tea just when it was needed), joined others of our group including Dave Croft, as recipient of the FBP Directors Award. Later, traditional evening discussions were continued by those who stayed overnight in the comfortable accommodations of the Park's staff house.

Many thanks to all who contributed to another great weekend for the OAS Ottawa Chapter and the FBP at Bonnechere Provincial Park. Just weeks before this hike, the McGuey trail was blocked by windfalls, but thanks to the efforts of Park staff Paul Smith and Wendy Hodson, our path was cleared. We look forward to next year's excursion with great anticipation.

Contributed by Rory MacKay

INNOVATIVE PILOT-PROJECT CREATED FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

FBP Develop a New Learning Tool

Over the past year, the FBP have been working with the Department of Canadian Heritage and 23 other heritage institutions to develop an interactive space and its accompanying learning resources. Entitled AGORA, the Greek word for *meeting place*, it's an online portal where museum educators, teachers and students will create, communicate, participate and share.

Bringing Canadian museums and their collections to their fingertips, this new online space will make it possible for teachers to consult lesson plans or create their own, then bring these lessons to life by interacting and participating directly with their students.

Feeding the Frontier: Food in Early Canada

The FBP contribution to this new portal is *Feeding the Frontier: Food in Early Canada*, which invites teachers and students to step back in time to life on the Canadian frontier. Using historic images, audio clips and text, this unique Learning Object Collection presents participants with a glimpse of how Canadian pioneers of the 1800s raised and grew crops, hunted and fished, preserved, cooked and served food from both wild and domestic sources. (*con't on next page...*)

Food in Early Canada

Feeding the Frontier



"Oh, at the farm we were capable of keeping...people there. We were able to stable, well, maybe ten team of horses... It was a day's trip from Killaloe to our place you see..."

There was always a lot of venison, because the game rules were not strictly observed, I don't think... Oh, they grew oats and barley and everything that would be grown. Turnips and all kinds of vegetables and all. Potatoes. Potatoes, and the livestock, of course. We had some sheep, and we kept cattle...

But the house, it was big. You come in the front door, and on the left was a parlour and behind it was a bedroom. And all this side was one big room... with a big long table for to feed people and this end was cooking... Now the bar-room was in there, just off that room... There were several rooms upstairs... [with] one big room... for the overnighters"

Excerpts from Interview of Michael Garvey (son of Paddy Garvey) by Rory MacKay, at Prescott, 1977 Algonquin Park Museum Archives

"The teamsters were not trusted with money to pay their expenses as many of them would spend it for drink at the first stopping place. They were given "way orders", small forms laboriously filled out in triplicate (each copy written separately) by Peter Tait, the store man, entitling them to meals and accommodation for themselves and their horses.

As some teamsters could not read, the "dinner, hay, and stabling" order was printed on blue paper. Supper and breakfast were supplied with the "lodging" although they were not mentioned on the order. Indeed on some examples that information was supplied.

Feeding the Frontier



The charge for man and team at noon was 50 cents, overnight \$1.00. No charge was made for a bed; very often the teamster slept on the floor in his own blankets."

Excerpt from "Life in the lumber Camps of McLachlin Brothers, Arnprior, Ontario" by Charles Macnamara, 1940, Ontario Archives

"Since at this time the writer was a resident of Mount Pleasant, in the Township of Guthrie, in the District of Nipissing, he experienced and counted as many as forty teams of horses from about 4:00 p.m. until dark, going by with supplies for the existing lumbering operations. While those forty teams would be only a portion of the teams that would be moving on the Bonnechere Road in one day, the reason why the writer would start to count at 4:00 p.m. was that it was more exciting to see so many of them at one time, sometimes as many as ten teams at one time coming on the scene."

Excerpt from "A History of Killaloe Station" by Martin Garvey, 1967

"There is a very fair traveled road leading through the township along the margin of the Bonnechere used by the lumbermen in transporting supplies into the interior. There is one settler (Francis Currier) living in the Township on lot 8 Conc. 11 who keeps a hotel or stopping place and who has a very good house and out buildings. There is an immense amount of travel along this road during the winter months."

Excerpt from "Report, Field Notes and Diary of the Township of Burns" by Thomas Bolger, 1874

RECIPE: TO STEW CUCUMBERS

Slice them thick; or halve and divide them into two lengths; strew some salt and pepper, and sliced onions: add a little broth or a bit of butter. Simmer very slowly; before serving, if no butter was in before, put some in with a little flour.

Henry I. Richards, 1861, Ontario

Five lesson plans were developed with a focus on artifacts recovered during archaeological digs at several early farming sites along Little Bonnechere River in the Ottawa Valley. Also included are excerpts from decades-old interviews with settlers who grew up on these farms, and images and descriptions of how foods were prepared and eaten at nearby shanty lumber camps and stopping places.

Many thanks to Alexa Fretz and her Grade 10 Food and Nutrition class at Madawaska Valley High School in Barry's Bay, who assisted in the development of this project by testing the various interactive and class activities.

Activity One: Bare Bones Of The Backwoods

The class analyzes the importance of faunal artifacts (bones), and the tools and methods used to hunt, fish and process meats to understand the roles of domestic and wild species in the survival of early Canadian settlers. This activity includes an interactive quiz.

Activity Two: Traditions of the Table

Students investigate settlement food traditions, kitchen tools and cooking methods transferred from Europe to Canada. Then they prepare dishes for their classmates using traditional recipes, tools and ingredients.

Activity Three: Gifts of the Land

By creating diary entries from the perspective of a Canadian settler, students learn how settlers grew, harvested and preserved foods in different seasons compared to today. This activity includes an interactive quiz.



Early Canadian loggers sitting around a cambouse fire inside a shanty camp; circa 1900. W.H. Harmer.

Activity Four: Bow to the King of the Camp

Students investigate the volume and types of food consumed in the shanty lumber camps of the 1800s and the daily preparation methods employed by the all-important camp cook.

Activity Five: The Stopping Places - Canada's First Bed and Breakfasts

The class learns about the importance of stopping places along Canada's frontier in terms of food, shelter, transportation and communication.

FBP Receive Funding for Species at Risk

Over the past decade or so, while the focus of many FBP-sponsored outreach programs has been on cultural heritage activities, we have always been mindful of the importance of protecting Bonnechere's valuable natural resources.

This fall, the FBP have been fortunate to receive funding from the Species at Risk Stewardship Fund through the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. The FBP partnered with the Renfrew County Stewardship Council (RCSC) in its application on a two-part project. RCSC plans to use their portion of the funding to develop a Species at Risk (SAR) Tool Kit for municipalities and community groups. The FBP will focus our efforts on developing a set of programs-in-a-box and educational materials focusing on the protection of Ontario turtle species.

Entitled, *Saving Ontario Turtles: A Race Against Time*, this package of educational materials will include an interactive game, an online quiz, worksheets, role-playing scripts, life-size turtle models, turtle photos and video clips, and a PowerPoint presentation.

By playing the interactive game, *Survivor Turtle: The 1% Challenge*, children will learn about the threats and challenges faced by turtles through all life stages. The learning object entitled *Turtle Island* will teach youth and adults about the interdependence of ecosystems and the importance of protecting turtle habitat. *Turtle SOS* will look at the role of the turtle brand in our culture, and invite teens to develop multimedia public service announcements to spread the message of turtle preservation.

These resources will be used to host programs for campers, day-visitors and school groups at Bonnechere Provincial Park. They will also be posted to the FBP website for worldwide access. Watch for release in early March; teachers can plan to integrate this programming into school trips (K to 12) to Bonnechere Park in Spring 2008.

Turtle Trivia: What are the seven Ontario turtle species? See answer on page 7.



Last June, several local school groups visited Bonnechere Park for fun-filled days of curriculum-based programs and outdoor recreation. Here, interpreter Treena Hein oversees pioneer lantern-making by Ashley Roesner and Ryan Schilkie. Ashley and Ryan were students of Ann Barr's Grade 5 class from Our Lady of Lourdes School, Pembroke.

The BIG-40 Skinny

40 years and millions of visitors later, Bonnechere Provincial Park enjoys a loyal following of campers, visitors and volunteers who keep coming back, year after year. Here's a look at one of Ontario's gems, by the numbers:

\$500,000

Raised by FBP since 1994
for programming, publications and
interactive learning tools.

45,503

Park Visitors in 2007

7134

Unique website visitors
in the last 12 months.

5000

Years as a great place to camp.

1967

Ontario's centennial year
and designation of
Bonnechere Provincial Park.

600

Feet of Sand Beach

162

Hectares of Park Land

128

Shaded Campsites

4

Rustic Cabins

2.5

Kilometres of
Hiking Trails



100 YEARS AGO

Mr. Philip Foy, son of Mr. Thos. Foy, of Round Lake, met with a painful mishap on Tuesday while working in Mr. J.D. McRae's shanty at Pog Lake. A log fell on his left leg, breaking it between the knee and ankle. The injured man was conveyed to Barry's Bay, and a telephone message brought Dr. M.J. Maloney of Eganville to his side. The fractured limb was set and on Wednesday morning Mr. Foy came down to Eganville to the home of Mr. Henry Foy, where he remains until such time as he will be able to be about again.

Reprinted from The Eganville Leader, September 19, 1907 Edition.

75 YEARS AGO

The Grand Jury returned a true bill in the case of John McDonald charged with having committed a criminal assault on Josephine Lafleur, a girl under fourteen years of age, in the Township of Burns, on August 11th, 1907.

On being arraigned McDonald pleaded guilty and on being brought up for sentence His Lordship questioned the mother of the young girl and found out from her that McDonald had, with the consent of the girl's father and mother, married the girl, and was going to support her. His Lordship in addressing McDonald pointed out the enormity of the crime to which he had pleaded guilty, the sentence for which might have been a term of years in the penitentiary with other degrading punishment. In view of the accused having married the girl His Lordship said he would release him on suspended sentence, warning the prisoner clearly that that meant not pardon, but that if he was brought before the Court for not providing for, or ill-threatening his wife, he would be liable to be sentenced for the crime to which he had pleaded guilty.

Mr. T.W. Clearly appeared for the defence.

Reprinted from The Eganville Leader, November 1, 1907 Edition.

McGuey Farm: True Pioneers

Imagine raising a large family in a pioneer home along the Little Bonnechere without electric lights, central heating or the comforts of modern living. Dennis McGuey and his wife Margaret did just that on this homestead. Here they raised a family of nine, in a house of squared pine timbers and under a roof of scooped cedar logs. It included a kitchen, dining room and bedroom, and a large room where transient labourers stayed over. Men traveling this part of the Old Bonnechere Road would get a meal and a bed at the McGuey stopping place for twenty-five cents a night at a time when they might be earning a dollar a day. Mind you, the bedroom was shared with twenty-five other men and the simple bed was a mattress of balsam boughs topped with a heavy wool blanket.

Dennis McGuey trapped bears, hunted and maintained the two log dams upstream. Margaret McGuey took care of the house, ran the stopping place and made butter to sell to the lumber camps. Their sons helped at home until they were old enough to work in the lumber camps; their daughters assisted with the cooking and cleaning, and cared for the younger children. After the chores were done there was always a little time for some good old-fashioned play with homemade toys, for this was a time long before video games and other modern-day diversions.

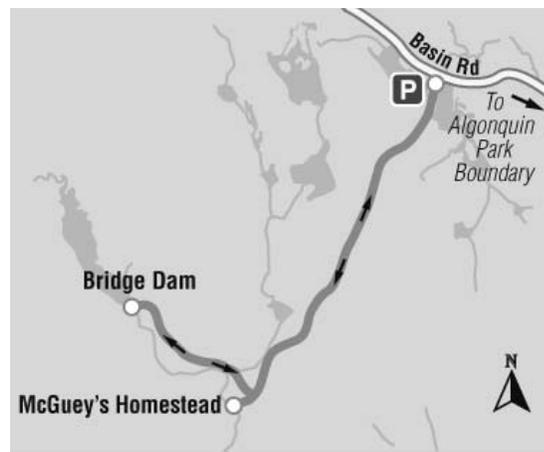
An Opening for Wildlife

Clearing a densely forested area for a homestead was a huge undertaking in the 1800s. Using only horse and manpower, a small plot of land likely took a family an entire summer to cut and clear of stumps and roots. Over 150 years later, the evidence of such hard labour remains in the form of a forest opening at the McGuey Farm. Here, species that prefer open space to dense woodland habitats, make their home.

On your walk, listen for chestnut-sided warblers or perhaps even a field-loving savannah sparrow or bobolink. In the spring listen and watch for the American woodcock, as the males engage in their phenomenal aerial display in an attempt to impress females probing the moist ground for worms.

As you look around the clearing note the border between woodland and field, where dense shrub growth increases supplies of woody stems. This is a good area to watch for browsing deer and moose. The open field beside the quietly flowing river also provides plenty of opportunity for observing a variety of bird species including the broad-winged hawk.

This article is an excerpt from Walks of the Little Bonnechere by Rory MacKay and Mark Stabb.



RATING

Easy (wear long pants).

TYPE

In and out.

TIME

3 hours

START/FINISH

31.3 km from Cty Rd 58. Trailhead located at side of road just up from Foy Lake road sign

HIGHLIGHTS

- remains of isolated pioneer homestead
- marshland
- moose
- Bridgedam

SURFACE

Old roadway with some washouts.

The Other Native Vessel

The History and Archaeology of a Ceramic Vessel

Collection: Round Lake Shoreline

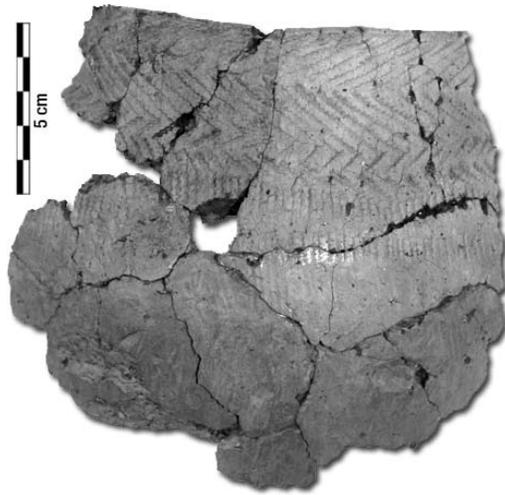
Object: Native Vessel

Material: Clay, Ceramic

Period: Middle Woodland

When one hears the words 'Native vessel', the traditional birch bark canoe often comes to mind. But at Bonnechere, fourteen ancient ceramic fragments have been reassembled to form part of another kind of Native vessel, this one used for storage or cooking.

At some distant time, perhaps 1000 years ago, this clay, grit tempered and decorated pot was used and discarded on the shores of Round Lake. In the early 1990s, during maintenance work on a retaining wall by Park staff, the soil in which it lay was excavated and moved to the gravel pit. Through chance and good fortune, one of the staff walked over – rather than around – this pile of sand, noticed a fragment exposed by recent rains, and recognized the pot shard for what it was. Dedicated Park staff then sifted the entire pile in their off-time, recovering an important trace of times past on the beaches of Round Lake.



Archaeologists tell us that this pot is representative of the technology used by Middle Woodland peoples who were progenitors of some present-day First Nation peoples, perhaps even of our neighbours, the Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn at near-by Golden Lake.

A close look at the structure of this pot indicates that it was made using the coil technique. Many of us learned this same technique as children when playing with plasticine. Clay is rolled into a ball in the hands, then further rolled on a flat surface into long ropes. These are then coiled, layer upon layer, to form the body

of the pot. It is thought that many pots of this Middle Woodland period were conical toward the bottom, suggesting that the first part of the coil may have formed the mouth of the pot, with the body built up to the base. The fingers would be used to merge the coils by flattening them, on both the inside and outside pot surfaces. A small wooden paddle could also have been used to smooth the clay.

There are no decorations on the inside of this vessel, but someone took a great deal of time to decorate the outside while the clay was still moist. The implement used may have been made of wood or shell, but would not have been found with the pot, either because it would have decayed long ago or because the pot was probably not constructed where it was found. With great care, this tool was used to make impressions known as pseudo-scalloped. When applied in different directions, this left a complex and visually attractive design on the pot's surface.

After decorating, the pot would be set aside for preliminary drying over a considerable time. Then it would have been placed in a fire of gradually increasing size and temperature to allow the pot to slowly bake and harden. Sand or crushed rock "temper" mixed into the clay helped to hold the clay together during this firing. (con't on next column...)



The expert potter who created this large and usable vessel was far more successful than those of us who have tried our hand at pot-making more recently, during the a recent school trip or Archaeology Day at Bonnechere Park, but they may not have had as much fun.

*Written by Rory MacKay
Cataloguing data by Tom Ballantine*

*To view other artifacts in our collection visit:
www.virtualmuseum.ca/Exhibitions/Spirits/English/Museum/index.html*

Thank You, Lynn!

FBP Director Lynn Lafrance has resigned from the Board of the Friends of Bonnechere Parks. Thank you Lynn for your support of the FBP over the past four years.

Welcome Back, Sean!

The Board welcomes back Sean Norris. Sean was one of the first summer students hired by the FBP, now he is a member of our Board.

Turtle Trivia Answers:

- Blandings (threatened)*
- Map (special concern)*
- Snapping (under review)*
- Spiny Softshell (endangered)*
- Spotted (endangered – not regulated)*
- Stinkpot [Common Musk] (threatened)*
- Wood (endangered but not regulated)*



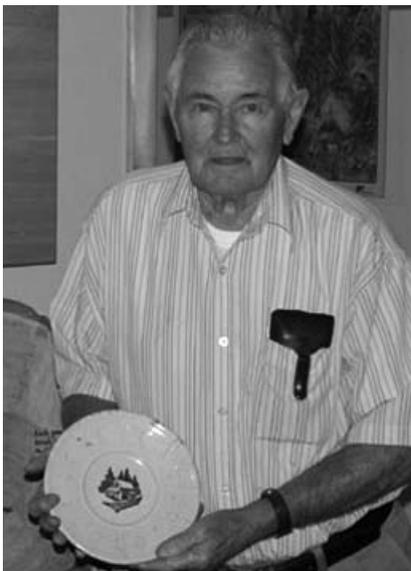
Alasdair Fraser: 2007 FBP Directors' Award Recipient

Alasdair Fraser has been chosen as the very worthy recipient of the 2007 FBP Directors' Award for his keen interest in sharing and recording the scenery, people and events along the Little Bonnechere River. As well, his quiet manner, graciousness and kind ways have enriched many of the Friends' gatherings.

Al and his late wife Margaret, first came to the Park on a regular basis when son Jim became Park Superintendent in 1987. While Margaret preferred to sit on the deck and enjoy the scenery of Round Lake, Al would walk the beach, hiking trails and roadways, photographing the flora and fauna that define this natural oasis.

Since the mid-1990s, when the FBP and OAS Ottawa Chapter introduced archaeological programs along the Little Bonnechere, Al has been an ever-present recorder of our history (and official tea-maker, apparently). He uses both video and still cameras to capture the locations, participants and findings of these public digs. He has also recorded most of the FBP celebrations and launches.

Though son Jim is no longer Park Superintendent, we hope that Al and his friend Ann will continue to think of Bonnechere Park as their favourite Ottawa Valley getaway for many years to come.



The Carleton Place Gang: Friends Indeed!

Ten years ago, a springtime visit to Bonnechere Park by Jim and Laurie Fraser, Dennis and Karen Gorr, Alvin (*at right*) and Donna Timmins, and their families, led to the tradition of the pre-season Clean-Up Weekend.

Since then approximately ten trailers of volunteers, mostly from nearby Carleton Place and Almonte, participate in the annual spring cleanup on the first weekend in May.

Most of us would arrive Friday afternoon and after dinner enjoy a late night campfire, discussing and solving many of the world's problems.

On Saturday morning we head to work. Occasionally we have been assigned specific tasks to complete, but most times we simply break into groups and cover the Park section by section. We check all campsites and cottage lots, and walk the hiking trails, removing anything that was not natural to the Park. Items that have been uncovered over the years are remarkable and many.

The clean-up usually ends early Saturday afternoon, followed by a delicious pot-luck dinner at the Davenport Centre. The evening entertainment often includes an NHL playoff game, and some lively card and board games. While most of us return home on Sunday, some make a long-weekend of it and stay through until Monday.

Besides getting some valuable work done during these pre-season get-togethers, a super time is had by all. As well, each camper family also makes a monetary donation to the Friends of Bonnechere.



Submitted by Alvin and Donna Timmins, Ken and Marilyn Towey, Carl and Carole Welk

Suggested Reading

WILLIAM E. LOGAN'S SURVEY OF THE UPPER OTTAWA VALLEY

Edited and Introduced by Charles H. Smith & Ian Dyck
Canadian Museum of Civilization
\$29.95

Canada's Museum of Civilization has just published this virtually unknown journal detailing the remarkable 1845 explorations of the Upper Ottawa Valley by William Edmond Logan, founding director of the Geological Survey of Canada, and one of Canada's greatest scientists. Comes highly recommended by Fred Blackstein and Jim Fraser.

LAST CHILD IN THE WOODS

Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder

Richard Louv
Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill
\$17.50

This book brings together a body of research indicating that direct exposure to nature is essential for healthy childhood development, and for the physical and emotional health of children and adults. More than just raising alarm, Louv offers practical solutions to heal the broken bond. A great read for parents and educators.

ST. CASMIR'S CHURCH, 1930 - 2005

A Tribute to the Parish and Its People

Shirley Mask-Connolly
Self Published
\$25.00

Well-known local historian Shirley Mask-Connolly has compiled this extensive history of the parish families of St. Casmir's Roman Catholic parish of Round Lake Centre. Using church records and archives, Shirley illustrates the histories of many local families, including some with roots at Bonnechere and Basin Depot. A must-have for locals and historians.

Available at:

Harmony Decor, Round Lake
Wilno Station Inn, Wilno

Or from the author:

21 Granville Avenue
Ottawa ON K1Y 0M5

Email: maskconn@magma.ca