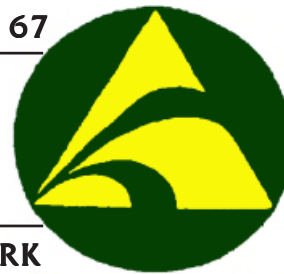


FRONTENAC NEWS



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF FRONTENAC PARK

Vision Day

24th May 2014 at the Park Office, 10 am to 3:30pm

The Friends are looking for YOUR ideas for new projects and activities! Every so often we like to take time to look at how our organization is doing now, and what new activities we can do to enhance our work and promote our goals.

We're addressing these important needs in our Vision Day being held on 24th May to review our achievements and plan our direction: so why not join us for a day to help shape the future of the Friends?

Some of the ideas for discussion are:

- new ways to engage younger people in the Friends and sustain our volunteer base;
- developing new educational initiatives for nature study;
- new interpretative trail guides for history and natural history;
- developing long-term ecological assessments in the Park using environmental surveys and fauna and flora monitoring projects;
- more engagement with local interest groups to include the Park in their spheres of interest;
- and more...

We'll meet from 10am to 3:30pm at the Park Office. We will also be hosting invited speakers on local natural history and from Ontario Parks as part of this day. A barbecue lunch will be organised – free but donations will be most welcome.



COURTESY OF SIMON SMITH

Please come along – members and prospective members are all welcome!

Simon Smith, Friends of Frontenac Park Vice-President

INSIDE

- Page 2 - President's Message
- Page 3 - Outside
- Page 4 - Treasurer's Report to the Annual Meeting
 - Spring Trail Sweep a Success
 - Death Notice - John MacComish
- Page 5 - Old Thor
- Page 6 - Oh... The Carnage
- Page 7 - Discovering Frontenac Park
- Page 8 - Frontenac Park Map
 - Membership Form

President's Message

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) with the election of our new Board of Directors took place on February 26th in the Ongwanada Center. David Crane, Donna Gillespie and Cathy Murray resigned from the Board after serving for a number of years and were rewarded with a paddle. All have agreed to continue to volunteer for the Friends and we thoroughly appreciate their efforts on our behalf. They are replaced by Jérôme McDuff, who will be our new Newsletter Editor, and by Fred Luciani and Justin Peterson, who initially will serve as Directors at large. Our finances are in good shape, as you can see from the Treasurer's report included in the present newsletter. The AGM was followed by our Winter Lecture which was given by Bob and Sue Clinton of Sydenham who gave a most delightful and informative account of how the Frontenac Challenge had inspired them to hiking challenges farther afield, taking their family all across Canada, from Gros Morne Park in Newfoundland to the West Coast Trail, and eventually to the Kluane Range and Tombstone Territorial Park in the Yukon.



In the meantime, our 2014 program (see Outside page in this newsletter) is well underway. For a change, we had plenty of snow for our snowshoe workshop, and both the Volunteer training day and the Spring trail sweep were well attended. Some of us who participated in the latter wished we had brought snowshoes along, as parts of the trails still had a thick snow cover. Nevertheless, on a few bare spots, some Spring Beauties were already in bloom, a sure sign that Spring has sprung.

Although there is a separate reminder in this newsletter, I will ask you to mark your calendar for May 24th, our vision day, planned to discuss new initiatives our organization may take over the next few years. We are hoping for a big turnout of our membership.

With best wishes for the coming hiking and paddling season,

Herb Helmstaedt



Friends of Frontenac Park

The Friends of Frontenac Park is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to develop programs and materials that enhance the public's awareness, education and appreciation of the natural environment and human history of Frontenac Provincial Park.

2014-2015 Board of Directors

| | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| President | Herb Helmstaedt | hhelmst@kingston.net | 613-542-8455 |
| Vice-President | Simon Smith | sjsmith@kos.net | 613-541-3964 |
| Secretary | Martha Whitehead | martha.j.whitehead@gmail.com | 613-548-1087 |
| Treasurer | Guy Thorne | gthorne@kingston.net | 613-548-1857 |
| Membership | John Critchley | sharjohn.critchley@bell.net | 613-634-5475 |
| Newsletter | Jérôme McDuff | jerome_mcduff@yahoo.ca | 613-389-8236 |
| Wilderness Skills | Don Stables | dstables@cogeco.ca | 613-345-1644 |
| Challenge | Anne Hogle | anne.hogle@gmail.com | 613-354-2607 |
| Director at Large | Fred Luciani | luciani63@msn.com | 613-384-2933 |
| Director at Large | Heather Jamieson | jamieson@geol.queensu.ca | 613-384-0235 |
| Director at Large | Justin Peterson | justinpeterson3@gmail.com | 613-766-1512 |

Committees

| | | | |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Frontenac Challenge | Anne Hogle | anne.hogle@gmail.com | 613-354-2607 |
| Hosting Program | Cathy Murray | Cathy527b@gmail.com | 613-378-0350 |
| Map coordinator | Jim King | jjmking88@yahoo.com | 613-544-9443 |
| Newsletter Publisher | Ron Abbott | elizabethandronabbott@gmail.com | 613-374-3212 |
| Trail Sweeps | Cathy Murray | Cathy527b@gmail.com | 613-378-0350 |
| Web Master | Jérôme McDuff | jerome_mcduff@yahoo.ca | 613-389-8236 |
| Winter Camping | Don Stables | dstables@cogeco.ca | 613-345-1644 |

The views expressed in the Frontenac News are not necessarily those of the Friends of Frontenac Park or the editor. Some articles are published to give the viewpoint of an author and to incite discussions.

We welcome your articles, notes, stories, and photographs for the newsletter. Your ideas, suggestions, and constructive criticisms are always encouraged. Material accepted is subject to editing and revision.

2014 deadlines for submission of newsletter material are April 14, August 11 and December 8.













Copy should be mailed to: Friends of Frontenac Park, c/o Newsletter Editor, P.O. Box 2237, Kingston, On. K7L 5J9 or sent by e-mail to: frontenacpark@gmail.com.

Visit us online at www.frontenacpark.ca. Follow us on Facebook / frontenacparkfriends and Twitter@frontenacpark

OUTSIDE

New programs and events may be added to the Official Schedule – please check the website at www.frontenacpark.ca for the most up to date information and details on specific programs.

Programs presented by the Friends of Frontenac Park are identified with the Friends logo 

| Date | Program | Start | Finish |
|-------------------|--|--------------|---------------|
| May 03 | ORCKA Canoe Instructors Recertification Clinic | 09:00 | 17:00 |
| May 10 |  Introduction to Back Country Camping | 09:00 | 16:00 |
| May 24 |  Vision day | 10:00 | 15:30 |
| May 17 |  Nature Walk - Maureen Sly | 10:30 | |
| May 26 to 30 | ORCKA Canoe Tripping–Level 1 & 2 (and Level 3) | | |
| May 31 |  Wilderness Map & Compass Navigation Level I | 09:00 | 16:00 |
| June 07 to 08 | Red Cross Wilderness First Aid | 09:00 | 16:00 |
| June 08 | Single Burner Gourmet Cooking | 10:00 | 13:00 |
| June 08 | The Amazing Tarp -Tarping Made Easy | 13:00 | 15:00 |
| June 14 |  Wilderness Map & Compass Navigation Level II | 09:00 | 16:00 |
| June 15 | Guided One Day Family Canoe Trip & Hike | 10:00 | 15:00 |
| June 20 to 22 |  Erhard Frenzl Memorial Paddle | | |
| June 21 |  Canoe clinic - Carolyn Bonta | 10:00 | 15:30 |
| July 12 | Paddle Canada - Flatwater Sea Kayaking Certification Course | 08:30 | 16:00 |
| July 19 | ORCKA Flatwater Canoe -Tandem Basic Level 1 & 2 | 08:00 | 17:00 |
| July 26 | Kayak Basics –“Getting Started” Kayak Course | 13:00 | 16:00 |
| August 17 | Guided One Day Family Canoe Trip & Hike | 10:00 | 15:00 |
| September 27 | Dutch Oven Wilderness Cooking | 10:00 | 13:00 |
| September 27 | Electronic Apps, Maps and Gadgets | 13:00 | 14:00 |
| Aug 30 - Sept 01 |  Bring a Friend to the Park | | |
| Sept 01 to Oct 31 |  Frontenac Challenge | | |
| September 28 |  Fall Trail Sweep | 08:45 | 16:00 |
| November 08 |  Frontenac Challenge BBQ | 10:30 | 12:30 |
| All Year |  All Season Camping Challenge | | |

Treasurer's Report to the Annual General Meeting

For the year ending 31 December, 2013

We had a successful year financially in 2013. Our revenues grew to just over \$22,000, significantly greater than the figure of about \$17,000 which has been the quite steady level of receipts in recent years.

Two factors account for the increase in 2013. First, we were fortunate to be offered the opportunity to conduct a licensed raffle of a canoe, the gift of Mid-Canada Fibreglass Canoes. Our team of volunteers was successful in selling tickets and bringing in a total of \$5,100. These funds are to be used to undertake a renovation of the boardwalk in the Arab Gorge and several improvements in the visitors' area of the Park headquarters. A second special source of funds was the donations made by a number of our members in memory of Erhard Frenzl, our friend and a long-time volunteer at the Park. These donations totalled \$2,783.85.

Donations from our members, in addition to their membership fees, are in fact a steady source of funds each year. The generosity of our members is a mainstay of the financial stability of the Friends of Frontenac Park.

Our expenditures amounted to just under \$13,000. This was less than had been budgeted because some projects did not proceed during 2013. The result was a surplus for the year of just short of \$10,000.

In 2014 we plan to use funds for the purposes set out in the budget. These include a major revision of the map of the Park and the substantial printing order which will follow the revision; figures for this project are not yet available. It should be noted that sales of maps make a significant contribution to our revenues each year, and the new map is likely to be popular.

John MacComish 1938-2014

It is with sadness that we learned of the passing of John MacComish (often spelled McComish) on March 25th 2014. John's father Wallace was born in the park at the Black Lake homestead and John had many wonderful stories of visiting his uncle Bert and his cousins back on the farm. John was probably the last person with firsthand experience of what it was like in the park in the olden days. The McComishes have the distinction of being the family that farmed the longest within the park – over 70 years and four generations. I had the pleasure of meeting John and his wife Debbie for an article that appeared in the 2013 Park Information Guide. To read more about John, see this informative article by Jo Anne Hopkins <http://www.bucklake.ca/newsletters/1402.pdf>. We offer our sympathy to John's family.

Spring Trail Sweep a Success

What an amazing turn out for the Trail Sweep on 12-April-2014. A grateful thank you to the 42 volunteers who participated and the 3 who tried but could not make it because of road flooding. Everyone returned with their feet wet and one volunteer unintentionally went for a wee dip. Fortunately, the sun was shining - it was a glorious warm spring day. Trail work was done on Tetsmine, Arkon, Bufflehead, Corridor, Dedication (the new trail to open soon), Cedar, south shore and part of the north shore of Big Salmon, Doe and Arab. The chilies and trimmings were scrumptious, thank you again to all involved. What a great way to end National Volunteer Week.



COURTESY OF JEROME McDUFF

Some of our eager volunteers sweeping the new Dedication Trail



COURTESY OF JEROME McDUFF

Old Thor

by Jérôme McDuff

The mighty Thor, famous Norse God of Thunder, brandishing his hammer, made a hero by Marvel Comics and the subject of at least one movie, has a namesake that is quietly sleeping in Frontenac Park.

In Frontenac, Thor is an old truck. It was built by International Harvester and, although I am no expert in vehicles, I am guessing that Thor is probably part of the D-series of trucks that International produced between 1932 and 1940 – possibly a Model D-40 built 1938 ca.

My assumption is based on the style of the hood logo on display at the Park Office and from information gleaned from McCormick-International Harvester Collection from the Wisconsin Historical Society < <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/> > . I would appreciate it if anybody could educate me further on this topic.

Thor's GPS resting position (UTM WGS84) is 18 T 380668 4933806 (or in Lat/Lon: N44.54771 W76.50230). You cannot miss it if you hike the Big Salmon or the Little Clear Lake Loops. Many Park visitors ask how the truck got there.

According to the story, in the mid 1950's Welly Green started selling a few pieces of the family homestead for cottages and eventually sold the remaining farm to Stan Ruttan, his nephew. Stan was keen on continuing cottage development in the area and wanted to sell lots on Little Salmon Lake – where campsite cluster #6 is today. To get to their cottages, his clients would have to drive the old Hardwood Bay Road (today the Clear Lake Road) originating from Perth Road and it was in rough shape—

impassable by car. Stan decided to hire the Westbrook Construction & Equipment Company owned by the Shaver brothers, Doug and Fennell, to fix the existing road and push it further to the shore of Little Salmon

Lake – nearly to the south end of Moulton Gorge.

Apparently it took the Shaver brothers about 6-months to repair the road on Ruttan's property. No wonder, if you hiked the spur trail to campsite 6 you probably experienced how steep the approach is to Little Salmon, not easy work in such a remote location. In any

case, the winter of 1957-58 was fast approaching and the Shaver brothers were not finished, so they decided to suspend operation till next spring and they parked their trusted truck, fondly nicknamed Old Thor, on the south side of the road, not too far from the cement

gateposts of the old Green's homestead, nearly across from the barn. They intended to come back in the spring to a waiting Thor and resume their work.

The park in those days had a very large population of porcupines and it seemed that they somehow acquired a taste for rubber, so when the Shaver brothers returned, they found that Old Thor's lines, cables and other parts had been chewed to bits. Assuming that Thor was built around 1938, the truck was nearly 20 years old when the Shavers came back in early 1958 and found it in such a deplorable shape. They

decided that getting it repaired was out of the question because of the extensive damage, the age of the vehicle

Continued next page ↪



Model D-40 with dump body, From International Trail Vol. 14 July 1937



Oh ... The Carnage!

by B. Korporaal

No matter what time of the year we travel the roads and highways, we often see wildlife. We are blessed to have such a diversity of flora and fauna in this part of the world. With such a variety of wildlife, we never know what we'll see around the next bend in the road, at any time of the day or night, any time of the year.

Most wildlife travel and move about during dusk and dawn. They are also very active before a storm or major weather change. Animals do this to feed and move to better shelter in preparation for the oncoming storm – self-preservation one might say. They sense they need to be prepared. It's in their nature.

However, almost every day, we see the unfortunate carcasses of many species along the roadsides that met their demise from drivers' vehicles. What most people don't realize is that you only see the animals that end up along the roadside shoulders, and not the ones that go into the ditch or beyond to die a painful death of trauma, injuries or shock. Nor do you see the smaller birds or animals that sort of blend in with the road gravel or along the grass edge of the road shoulder. We feel sad for the deer or raccoon or beaver but never think about the ones you don't see. Maybe it is the premise of 'out of sight out of mind' or maybe we are becoming too calloused: if we don't see it, we don't need to worry or care about it. Or then again, maybe we are too focused on time and speed...just a perceived mentality that we have to get to our destination as fast as we can, with no heed to what is along the road.

The other day while en route to the park, I counted five cottontail rabbits, two raccoons, four squirrels, a chipmunk and two robins, dead on the road. This

morning I had to stop the truck to allow the passage of nine deer in the middle of the road, and farther along, 14 wild turkeys, and again, another five turkeys close to the park!

During a severe winter, like the one we just had, when snow is deeper than normal, deer have a hard time getting around in the bush, and they will come out to the roads to ease their travel and find relief from punching through the snow. They also come out to lick road salt, a vital mineral they need to survive. So it is common to see them on the roads, especially dusk through dawn.

In early summer during June and July you will see numerous turtles travelling the roads searching for the right gravelly conditions to lay their eggs. Snapping, Painted and Blanding's turtles are the most common. Many meet their demise from inattentive drivers, and sometimes from drivers who deliberately aim for them. As a conscientious motorist, you can do your part by stopping, when it is safe to do so, and carefully helping the turtle off the road. For the behemoth snappers you may want to use a shovel. Snakes are another species that fall prey to the one-ton vehicles resulting in very dead and flat snakes. There are no dangerous or poisonous snakes in this part of the province so why not stop and shoo them off the road?

A scary thought: with inattentive drivers out there, what could happen if a child was playing or walking along the road? I shudder to even let that enter my mind.

Please let's slow down and do our part in helping the wildlife, so that our children and their offspring have the same diversity of flora and fauna to appreciate.

Old Thor - from page 5

and its isolated location. Hence they reluctantly left behind "Old Thor". Little did they know that 55 years later it would become one of the most photographed "attractions" in Frontenac Park.

A question remains, why did the Shavers named it Thor? I do not know for sure but I was told once it was because the truck had a very low gear that enabled it to slowly climb very steep grade fully loaded – strong like the mighty Thor himself.

To find out more about the human history of the park read "Their Enduring Story" by Chris Barber with Terry Fuchs available for purchase at the Park Office.



COURTESY OF SUSAN HITCHCOCK

Discovering Frontenac Park

by Debbie O'Grady

Although I'd heard much about Frontenac Park and for the past six years, had wanted to take the Frontenac Challenge, I'd never actually been to the park until January 2013, when I snowshoed the Doe Lake Trail. It was very unlike some of the other local conservation areas I frequent – much more quiet, remote, and wild. The sun was shining brightly that first day I visited the park and a thick blanket of snow sparkled in the sunlight, while shadows danced through the pines. I was instantly smitten.

After that first visit, I was determined to undertake the slightly daunting Frontenac Challenge – 11 loops and 160 km of trails that had to be hiked from September 1st to October 31st. I enlisted a couple of enthusiastic hiking partners and the three of us ventured to the park the 2nd week-end in September and did our first 'warm-up' hike – the Doe Lake and Arab Loops.

The park had virtually transformed since I'd seen it last – the pure, white snow replaced with rich earth, vibrant green moss, and strewn with rusty autumn leaves. Again, it was a sunny day and when we stopped to take a break on a big stretch of flat rock above a bog, the warmth of the rock against our bodies and the sun on our skin was absolute bliss. When we resumed hiking, a beautiful doe sprang across the trail in front of us and up into the woods where she then paused for a moment and looked back at us, as if to briefly acknowledge our presence.

Our hiking adventures continued throughout September and October with every hike yielding a new lesson in biology, environmental awareness and history, and as distance increased, in determination and perseverance. We discovered intricate beaver dams, fascinating rock formations, emerald moss, a variety of interesting mushrooms, abandoned mines, old homesteads, random feathers, cascading gorges, pristine lakes, and rugged boardwalk. We were also fortunate enough to catch glimpses of deer, beavers, osprey, and a variety of birds.

A fascinating find was discovering mica on the Tetsmine Loop. We had no idea what it was at first - it was flat, smooth, and a myriad of earthy colours with amber

tones and flecks of gold. I later learned that the mica came from the Tett mine which operated from 1899 to 1924 and for a few months, was the largest mica producer in Ontario. We also came across an abandoned, rusty truck on an old homestead on the Big Salmon Loop, which quickly provided the perfect photo op! Frontenac Park is rich in history, and I'm sure the trees hold many untold stories.

Unfortunately, I was two loops short of completing the 2013 Frontenac Challenge before the deadline. However, I'm still grateful that I had the opportunity to complete the loops that I did, and experience and become more familiar with the park. And now I'm that



COURTESY OF DEBBIE O'GRADY

much more motivated to start and finish the 2014 Challenge this fall. It's a great work-out and the best gym there is!

Until then, I'm looking forward to experiencing Frontenac Park from the unique perspective of paddling a canoe this spring, and hope to do some camping there this summer. I can't think of a better way to spend a week-end than in the Great Outdoors, and Frontenac Park has so much to offer any nature enthusiast, or anyone wishing for a temporary retreat into the wild.

Frontenac Provincial Park Map

The Frontenac Park Map is available at the following locations:



Kingston

Trailhead, Tourism Kingston Visitor Information Centre.

Sydenham Area

Snug Harbour Resort, Frontenac Park Office.

Out of Town

Mountain Equipment Co-op (Toronto, and Ottawa), World of Maps (Ottawa), Outdoors Oriented (St. Catharines), Adventure Attic (Dundas), Adventure Guides (Waterloo), Wild Rock Outfitters (Peterborough).

To order your copy by mail, send \$9 (plus \$1 for mailing) for paper map to: Friends of Frontenac Park, P.O. Box 2237, Kingston ON K7L 5J9

Your membership with The Friends entitles you to a 15% discount at Novel Idea, a Kingston owned bookstore, located at 156 Princess Street.

Join The Friends of Frontenac Park Now

In these days of government cutbacks and encroaching development, a semi-wilderness park needs all the friends it can get. Your membership in The Friends of Frontenac Park will put you in touch with other outdoor enthusiasts who have discovered one of Ontario's great natural secrets. Join today or sign a friend up. Everyone is welcome.

Name _____

Telephone (_____) _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Postal Code _____

Membership Category

(Membership year April 1 to March 31)

Family \$ 25.00

Individual \$ 20.00

Donation *(tax receipts will be issued for amounts exceeding \$10)* \$ _____

Total Amount Submitted \$ _____

Cheques payable to:

The Friends of Frontenac Park

P.O.Box 2237

Kingston ON K7L 5J9

Getting to Know You

Are you interested in participating in Friend's activities, as an organizer, Board member, workshop leader, project coordinator, writer/editor, naturalist or general volunteer?

Please indicate your interest below and we will contact you.

I'm interested in:

Helping with trail maintenance and work bees

Leading nature walks

Hosting at the Park Office

Being an ambassador in the Park

Serving on the Board of Directors

Other (please specify) _____