

FRONTENAC NEWS



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF FRONTENAC PARK

The Tetts - an Entrepreneurial Family

by Jérôme McDuff

The “Tett” family name was familiar to the settlers within the current boundaries of Frontenac Park and their area neighbours because of their importance to the economic life of the region.

It all started when Benjamin Tett (1798-1878), son of a manufacturer, emigrated from England in 1820 and within a few years took residence in Newboro. He recognized a lucrative business opportunity offered by of the imminent construction of the Rideau Canal (started in 1826 and completed in 1832). He had his eyes on the lumber trade and transportation of agricultural goods. Ben secured a large acreage of land in northern Loughborough and southern Bedford townships for the purpose of logging. (Within the Park boundary Chris Barber estimated the Tett land holding to fifteen 200-acre lots). He partnered with the Chaffey and others and soon was shipping timber, lumber, shingles, cedar poles, railway ties and cordwood via the Rideau Canal to Kingston, Montreal and the USA in addition to what he also sold locally.

The sawmill at the east end of Devil Lake at Buttermilk Falls, later known as Bedford Mills became particularly important to the settlers of the Park. The mill started operating in early 1830's, a Tett-Chaffey partnership, and soon had a store and a grist mill (i.e., flour and farm feed grinding) to service area farmers. It also featured ship loading facilities as Bedford Mills is on Loon Lake – an arm of Newboro Lake, giving it direct access to the Rideau Canal. According to canal records three major sawmills on the Rideau (Kingston Mills, Bedford Mills and the Anglin Mill at Brewer's Mills) exported a total of 8,289,000 board feet of lumber in 1850. This gives you an idea of the commercial importance of the lumber trade in those days.

Since its beginning, Bedford Mills gave settlers an outlet for their products. They would probably meet for a chat while at the grist mill or at the store to purchase goods or barter for merchandise. Some would work in one of five Tett's lumber shanties, although we are not aware of any within the Park. We do know of the existence of the Hardwood Bay Farm/Tett Boarding House within the Park to lodge and feed their employees (see article in Frontenac News Number 69).



JEROME MCDUFF

The Benjamin Tett House, circa 1834, Main St., Newboro

Many homesteaders would cut wood and sell it to the Tetts for 1 to 2 shillings per log. Other part-time operators would cut wood on contract and float the logs in the early spring via Devil Lake to Bedford Mills. In 1885 Bedford Mills, population of 80, had a post office, school, warehouses, stables, and more.

Benjamin Tett also found time to enter politics – being elected pre and post confederation. In the middle 1870's he turned over the running of his operations to his capable sons Benjamin Jr. and John Poole. He died shortly after at 80 years of age.

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President's Message

I would like to begin by expressing appreciation for the dedication and hard work of Herb Helmstaedt who retired as President of the Friends of Frontenac Park earlier this year after over eight years in the role, having served as Friends Secretary for several years before that. He executed the role of President with great efficiency and contributed many hours to organising activities, preparing and running meetings and representing the group to other associations and agencies, and of course leading the annual President's paddle.

The Friends grew under Herb's leadership to cover an ever-increasing range of activities as a cooperating association, with a boost in the number of active volunteers and in the overall volunteer effort provided. New wilderness skills courses were added, including map and compass and basic camping skills. New directions were added, particularly in support of visitor information and education, some of which are still being deployed. New information kiosks at entry points and parking lots were installed, supported by the Friends. Herb also generously shared his extensive expertise in geology through newsletter articles, the winter lecture and he sourced and organised the new mica display in the Park Office. We wish Herb all good wishes on his "retirement" which I think will still involve many hours in the Park, and I would like to express a heartfelt "thank you" from all of the Friends.

You will soon see some of the supporting activities and new initiatives that the Friends of Frontenac Park are embarking on – many of which arose from ideas from our own membership that arose at the Vision Day held in May 2014. Fred Luciani has been championing the deployment of the Vision Day outcomes; a detailed report will be published when the final version is ready.

Most visible will be new interpretive plaques at some of the historical sites in the Park. A team of Friends members has been very hard at work designing the first six of these, covering the human history of the park. They will be situated at former farm locations, mines and native sites, and they will be installed over the coming months.

The Friends is initiating a student bursary to support research in the Park – we are seeking applications this fall to cover study over 2017. This is open to studies covering scientific, cultural and historical aspects. More information can be obtained from Heather Jamieson (jamieson@queensu.ca) or John Kraemer (john.j.kraemer@gmail.com).

For the benefit of visitors from overseas and new arrivals in Canada, we are working on creating brief two-sided information sheets in several languages. These will supplement the current brochure about the Park which is in English and French. We are asking the Friends for

assistance in translation.

On top of that, the Friends is providing financial support to upgrade the large photo-map of the Park in the Trail Centre – a much-needed improvement from the early 1980s-era aerial black and white photo to a current colour satellite image with trails and points of interest laid out. In the Park Office over the last few years, the Friends have supported new wildlife displays – most recently a beautiful otter. A significant new display is now being prepared.

The Friends is celebrating its 25th Anniversary over the next few months. In the beginning, there was a planning committee which met over 1990-91, and the first board was elected in September 1991. They immediately went to work initiating some of the Friends' activities which are so familiar now – this newsletter, production of a detailed topographic map and the first volunteer programmes. The official agreement between the

Continued next page

Friends of Frontenac Park

The Friends of Frontenac Park is a nonprofit 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.

2016-2017 Board of Directors

Past President	Herb Helmstaedt	hhelmst@cogeco.ca	613-542-6455
President			
Vice-President	Simon Smith	sjsmith@kos.net	613-541-3984
Secretary	Sigrid Kohler	sigridormiston@hotmail.com	613-888-0750
Treasurer	Guy Thorne	gthorne@kingston.net	613-548-1857
Membership	John Critchley	johnecritchley@bell.net	613-634-5475
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Director at Large	Fred Luciani	luciani63@msn.com	613-384-2933
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Committees

Frontenac Challenge	Anne Hogle	anne.hogle@gmail.com	613-354-2607
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Map coordinator	Jim King	jimking88@yahoo.com	613-544-9443
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Trail Sweeps	Cathy Murray	Cathy527b@gmail.com	613-331-0729
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.

2016 deadlines for submission of newsletter material are March 14, August 1 and December 5. 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](https://www.facebook.com/frontenacparkfriends) and [Twitter@frontenacpark](https://twitter.com/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. To register for any of the programs below, please telephone 613-376-3489. Programs presented by the Friends of Frontenac Park are identified with the Friends logo .

Date	Program	Start	Finish
Sept. 01 - Oct 31	 The Frontenac Challenge, Junior Challenge, and Frontenac Trek	at your convenience	
Sept. 10	Dutch Oven Gourmet Wilderness Cooking	10:00	13:00
Sept. 10	Electronics on Wilderness Trips	13:00	14:00
Sept. 22	 Friends Board Meeting, Ongwanada	19:00	21:00
Sept. 23 – 25	Red Cross Wilderness First Aid	Friday p.m. – Sunday p.m.	
Oct. 1	 Fall Trail Sweep	08:45	?
Oct. 27	 Friends Board Meeting, Ongwanada	19:00	21:00
Nov. 5	 Frontenac Challenge Award Celebration	10:30	?
Nov. 24	 Friends Board Meeting, Ongwanada	19:00	21:00
Dec. 5	 Deadline for Submissions for Winter Newsletter		
All year	 All Season Camping Challenge		

President's Message - from previous page

Friends and the government came in July 1992 – so we have a generous ten month window in which to celebrate twenty-five years as a cooperating association. We are beginning with some extras at our Challenge celebration in November. We plan to have some displays of the Park and Friends history with associated activities and accomplishments following that. Even this year's challenge theme is based on the Friends' achievements.

The main celebratory event will be in early summer 2017, where we plan to devote a whole day to celebrate Frontenac Park and the Friends in as many ways as possible. There is more information in the article by Guy Thorne elsewhere in this newsletter. For the social and display part, we are calling on Friends members and park visitors to prepare and submit their impressions, memories, experiences or creations that have been inspired by time in Frontenac Park. These can be in any form, from any time and from any age group – such as: descriptive writing, stories, poetry, paintings, cartoons, photographs, plays, music and songs. We want to have a day to commemorate the park in as many ways as possible. Ideas for themes might be:

What keeps you coming back to Frontenac?

A park encounter with a unique or memorable character;

Bringing the human history – native peoples, farmers, miners, loggers – back to life;

The discovery of a place in the park leaving a lasting impression or an unforgettable or moving sighting of

plant or animal life or a park vista;

A sentiment or moving experience occasioned by Park visits;

Your best day in Frontenac Park;

“Park Secrets” – as yet untold.

We will be fixing a date for the celebratory event shortly – look for a day in May or June next year. This will be an opportunity to present your contribution – to stand up and talk, recite poems or stories, display paintings, show photographs and act plays and perform music and songs. It will be a time for sharing and fun, with lots of cake, of course.

And after that, we would like to share the works further – with permission – on the Friends website, and in publication of a commemorative book featuring contributions, as a lasting record of the first 25 years of the Friends of Frontenac Park.

So please, start thinking and creating now. In order to assist with planning the event, we would appreciate knowing about your contributions in advance. Written work, photographs and information about paintings can be e-mailed to the Friends at frontenacpark@frontenacpark.ca, please include “25th Anniversary” in the subject line.

Thank you very much. Don't forget, the Frontenac Challenge starts on September 1st! Have a great rest of the year.

Simon Smith

Slide Lake Loop, not for the faint of heart

by Terry Sprague

Reprinted with permission. First published in *The Scoop*, April/May 2016. *The Scoop* is a community newspaper serving rural communities in Lennox & Addington and Frontenac counties. It is based in Tamworth, Ontario.

I have aspirations of hiking the Slide Lake Loop at Frontenac Provincial Park this year, just to show my new artificial hip who's boss. Okay – maybe next year. It will be my third time, the most recent being in May just a couple of years ago. Fond memories of a difficult, but memorable trek over some gorgeous and rugged habitat.

The view from the top of the 150-foot high granite mountain on this trail is spectacular. Below, Slide Lake shimmers in the light breeze, sunlight casting blackened shadows of trees and surrounding boulders eerily upon its surface. Through binoculars, one can make out the miniature forms of painted turtles as they bask in the rays of the sun. It is wild country at its best and so remote that the chance of bumping into another hiker is unlikely.

My first hike along this trail at Frontenac was in 2003 when I was 58 years old. I found the hike challenging, even then. Strange, how the climb over this rocky terrain, considered the most rugged in the entire 14,000-acre park, got so much more difficult in just a

decade! Park literature describes the nine-kilometre hike as “extremely difficult.” There is no reason for me to dispute this after crab-walking and bum-rocking our way to the finish line, a hike that took us seven hours. We were not in a hurry, though. We stopped often to take in the phantasmagoria. Hikes at Frontenac are not meant to be marathons; they are meant to be savoured.

In Frontenac Park speak, nine kilometres is considered a stroll. Most of the trails are 12 or 15 km in length – nice, pleasant walks that can be completed in five or six hours. The trail we were on is only a small inner loop of the much longer 21-kilometre Slide Lake Loop, on the Park's eastern side, off Old Perth Road. Call this inner loop an entry level of a junior walk, if you want, but despite its shorter length, it is no less challenging.

Completing the hike is only one of the day's challenges. Reaching the trail is another. Like so many other trails in the Park, access is from another nearby trail, which means one has to walk several kilometres before even beginning the hike! The Slide Lake Loop is accessible from a couple of other trails both “a fur piece” from the start of the trail. Thirteen years ago, we opted for the water access and canoed for an hour and a half on Buck

Lake from a tiny boat launch along Old Perth Road to reach the trail. On our most recent effort, we parked our car along Old Perth Road, followed a two-kilometre section of the Rideau Trail, and commenced our hike in lowland – once farmland between 1853 and 1940, we learned from literature. It all started coming back to me, even the red trilliums, right where I remembered seeing them in bloom ten years earlier.

It was a great way to warm up before the trail got really down and serious. It was near perfect weather – scattered clouds to keep the temperatures tolerable, and

a slight breeze to keep the black flies at bay. The lack of appreciable wind allowed us to savour the wavering trill of toads, and the unmistakable songs from migrant pine, Nashville and black-and-white warblers. The haunting flute-like notes from an invisible hermit thrush wafted in on the slight breeze from an adjacent wooded area.

Despite a precipitous climb, and slopes so steep it was necessary to lower ourselves in reverse, there

was wildlife. We found two lime-coloured smooth green snakes, one of which was cooperative enough for a close-up photo. A young water snake also crossed our path, as did a garter snake. What we didn't see, we saw evidence of their passage. Deer, incredibly, walk these steep inclines, only scant inches from a sheer drop of a hundred feet or so. Squirrels, chipmunks - all were present in this unforgiving terrain, created more than a billion years ago on what is known as the Frontenac Arch. There were flowers, too – both trillium species, spring beauties, and one of the earliest still blooming, the dandelion-like coltsfoot.

Slide Lake is neatly tucked in behind a narrow ridge of granite that separates it from the much larger Buck Lake. In earlier days, pioneers logged on this side of the Park, floating the logs across Slide Lake where they were shifted across the 25-metre rocky ridge. To get the logs into Buck Lake, Slide Lake had to be raised to float the logs closer to the ridge where wooden rollers anchored securely into the rock were used to coax the logs over the edge; hence, the name of Slide Lake. Some didn't make it and these inadequately tethered logs sank,

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TERRY SPRAGUE

The Friends of Frontenac Park

25th Anniversary 2016-2017

As Simon Smith has mentioned in the President's letter in this edition of the newsletter, the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Friends will arrive this Fall. We will be marking the occasion throughout the following year. As Simon has reported, the first observance will be a brief presentation at the barbecue which forms the conclusion of the Frontenac Challenge, which is typically our best-attended event of the Fall season. This will take place this year on Saturday, November 5th.

We are planning for a more substantial celebration during the Summer of 2017, tentatively scheduled for the month of June. We are very much open to suggestions as to what may be involved. In the meantime a committee has been established to plan for this and other activities during the anniversary year. The committee is proposing that the event in June could include these elements:

1. In advance of the event, we would like to ask for submissions of memories of Frontenac Park from the past quarter-century. These might include photographs, written reminiscences, poems, songs, paintings and drawings. We would like to look ahead to the publication of the best of these submissions in a book or similar record which could be made available to our members and others who may be interested. We also think of a possible small souvenir book for those who attend the actual event.

2. The event itself might have two main components:

a) A more or less formal meeting at which there would be an address, probably by our President, outlining the growth of the Friends with the Park since its founding, describing the achievements of the past 25 years, acknowledging the contributions of the Park staff and leadership, and perhaps looking toward the future. We understand that one or more senior representatives of the Ministry of Natural Resources would be willing to speak on this occasion.

b) A social aspect to follow the meeting, including a simple meal (for example, casserole-type dishes, lasagna, salads and desserts) for a modest charge. This would provide an opportunity for members, staff and guests to renew acquaintance and tell old stories.

It will be important to send invitations to this event to individuals who have played a part in the development of the Park and the Friends, including present and former staff members, past and present members of the board of the Friends, people who have been particularly supportive of the Park and the Friends, and public officials who have supported or taken an interest in the work of the Park. A general invitation should of course go out to the current members of the Friends.

There might also be a third component:

c) A display of some of the art work or other submissions made in advance of the event, such as photos, videos and drawings.

We expect to be able to announce a date for this event in the next issue of the newsletter. In the meantime we are keen to hear from members who would like to volunteer to help with the organization of the event, or who have suggestions to make this a memorable and enjoyable occasion for all.

Please contact any of the members of the 25th Anniversary Committee:

Simon Smith	613-541-3964	sjsmith@kos.net
John Critchley	613-634-5475	johnecritchley@bell.net
John Kraemer	613-484-8829	john.j.kraemer@gmail.com
Guy Thorne	613-548-1857	gthorne@kingston.net

Slide Lake - from page 4

where they remain to this day. Once in Buck Lake, the logs were boomed and floated to a sawmill on Mississauga Creek to be sawn.

In sharp contrast, the terrain where we came in from Perth Road and, subsequently concluded our hike, was once farmland, relatively flat. After all these years, it has refused Nature's attempts to naturalize into forest. Meadow grasses still grow where ploughs once turned over the sod for crops as recently as

1940. In that time, an almost one-kilometre long lake, large enough to show up on Google Earth, was a farmers field until abandoned in 1940, after which natural succession had taken over and produced a small forest. Beavers moved in about twenty years ago and flooded it to become the now treeless lake that it is today.

If planning to do this hike, take lots of water (we ran out with another three kilometres to go), good hiking boots, a walking stick or walking poles, and pack some Ibuprophen. You'll likely need it!

Summer Activities

by Peter Owens

Several events this spring and summer encouraged people to get out and enjoy our Park. Thank you to Jérôme McDuff for sending photos for the Newsletter.

Erhard Frenzel Memorial Paddle

On the weekend of June 24, the 16th Erhard Frenzel Memorial Paddle took place. Until 2014, this was known as the Presidents Paddle, but was renamed after Erhard, a dedicated volunteer and avid paddler. This event has evolved into a family affair, involving overnight camping, canoeing, and hiking along with campfires and entertainment.



tools and lumber, we must thank these hardy souls for their efforts. Shown in the photo are: Jérôme, Adrian, Tom and Trish Black, Maureen and Ken Watkin, John Critchley, Bert Korporaal, Tom Rae (missing Mike and Felicia Trickey).

Historical Walk

On April 23, the indefatigable Jérôme McDuff led a group of interested visitors on a leisurely, interpretive walk along Big Salmon Lake Road. The early settlers who lived and farmed in and around the present day Park had a difficult life compared to those who were fortunate to have land in flatter, more fertile areas. Many families struggled and persevered for generations using whatever resources came to hand. Jérôme led the group by Katie David's house, pointing out various features and regaling the group with many anecdotes.

Work Day

There is always maintenance to do in Frontenac Park. Each of the four seasons brings unique challenges in keeping the trails, portages, bridges and campsites safe. The Friends of Frontenac Park are front and centre in the monitoring and repairing of damages caused by heavy rains, snow, frost, and wind. Beavers and deer also significantly affect the environment in the park. Keeping a balance between the park's wilderness status and allowing our many visitors to enjoy a safe hike or paddle requires much thought and effort. Park staff and volunteers report any areas that require attention. This spring after the trail sweep on April 2, a sizeable group of volunteers, under the direction of Bert Korporaal, repaired a foot bridge that had been washed out west of campsite 10. As these repairs often take place quite a distance from the Park office and require bringing in



Bird Walk May 2016

by Peter Owens

It was a cool, moist morning when ten birders set out on a leisurely walk around the Doe Lake Trail. Led by Gaye Beckwith of Kingston Field Naturalists (KFN), we slowly walked the trail, stopping often to watch, listen, and photograph a variety of spring birds. Personally, I would have walked by many of them, oblivious to their presence, except for the expertise of our guide. Because Gaye was able to identify many species by their songs, he would stop the group, orient us in the proper direction and point out the sometimes well hidden birds. Gaye's wife, Betsy, recorded our sightings. Three



JOHN KING



GAYE BECKWITH

White Throated Sparrow

hours passed quickly and the varied terrain of the Doe Lake Trail rewarded us with a total of 34 different species. Though many of these were fairly common, it is always enjoyable to see "old

friends" such as great blue herons, loons, Baltimore orioles, and several species of warblers. Highlights for me were the striking white throated sparrow and a barred owl that watched us take its photo for several minutes. An American bittern was heard but not seen. Having Anne Robertson, also of the KFN, as one of the participants, was an added bonus. Anne was able to point out and identify several different wild flowers and other vegetation, such as a butternut tree, as we passed by. It was just as interesting to look down as it was rewarding to look up.

The Tetts - from page 1

After many years of successful lumbering, the valuable timber resource in the Park area was dwindling by the end of 1919. The Tett brothers turned their attention to mining. Their main mica mine opened in 1899 inside the park (UTM 18 T 380016 4935542) and was for a short time the largest mica producer in Ontario. It employed an average force of ten men. After 1910 it was worked on and off until 1924 when it finally closed. In total, the Tett mine produced 99 tons of mica valued at \$27,279.00. At about the same time the village of Bedford Mills started its decline and its residents moved away in search of



Bedford Mills, circa 1885. The sleeping quarters, store in the forefront, sawmill, grist mill, lumber yard and ship loading docks. Source: Rideau Lakes Public Library; donor: Bell estate.



The Tett Mine. Benjamin Tett Jr. is the bearded man in the doorway. Acquired by Christian Barber while researching for the book "Their Enduring Spirit."

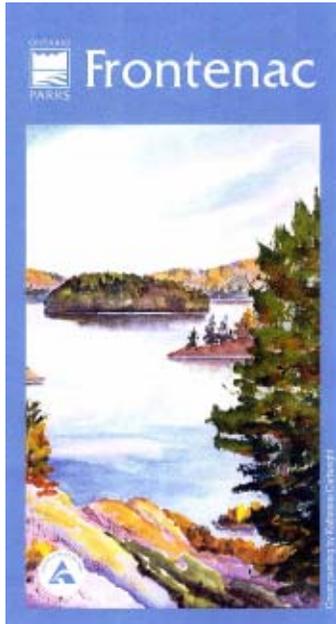
employment. Rail transportation and improvement to the Perth Road marked the end of commercial shipping on the Rideau Canal.

Hikers are reminded of the prominence of the Tett name in the history of the Park as they hike the "Tetsmine" Loop, walking by the shoreline of Tetsmine Lake and at the location of the Tett mine itself. No doubt, Park planners chose those names to honour the contribution of the Tett family.

To learn more about lumbering and mining within Frontenac Park, please read "Their enduring Spirits" by Chris Barber with Terry Fuchs for sale at the Park Office.

Frontenac Provincial Park Map

The new 5th edition of the Friends' Frontenac Park Map will be available at the following locations:



Kingston

Trailhead, Tourism Kingston Visitor Information Centre

Sydenham Area

Frontenac Park Park Office, Snug Harbour Resort

Elsewhere

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

To order your copy by mail, send \$12.00 cnd for paper map or \$25.00 cnd for Polyart and add \$2 for mailing 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) _____