



Volume 17 Number 3

July 2011

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 19th - MacGregor's got Talent.

September 17th and 18th - Wild for the Arts

NEW PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As iconic author Robertson Davies noted, "I like a country walk, but unless you can find a quiet road, your life will be made a misery by people wanting to give you lifts." During the current record breaking heat wave we are very lucky to have many kilometres of shaded paths and trails at MacGregor Point to take long country walks and enjoy the out of doors without interruption. Events such as the Huron Fringe Birding Festival highlight what outstanding natural resources surround us. The addition of the new Bird Blind this fall will further expand the opportunities for viewing some amazing examples of the feathered kingdom. In addition I have seen deer and other four legged wildlife while wandering the trails. Of particular note right now is the ability to walk the Old Shore Road under the shade while enjoying the occasional breeze off the lake. The lake itself is also a major resource to enjoy during this warm weather.

We are sorry to bid farewell to long time board members **Francis Glencross** and **David Cheer**. Dave has agreed to remain on the board filling the Projects Chair role until **Mike Pickup** is able to return to active duty. Francis is continuing on the Wild for the Arts organizing committee. **Stew Nutt** is also at the end of his term on the board but has graciously agreed to stay on ex-officio as Past President. **Norah Toth**, our recently retired park liaison has also agreed to continue ex-officio membership as recording secretary for the Friends during this transition year once her replacement is named.

While we already have many excellent volunteers participating in FOM sanctioned activities such as the Birding Festival and Wild for the Arts it is our hope over the next year to develop a further group of resource people who can be called upon to participate in specific activities. This follows the adage that “many hands make light work” and will hopefully allow more people the opportunity to enjoy the fun and fellowship of participating in a variety of roles in events.

We are very pleased to welcome two returning and two new members to the board of the FOM. **Bev Carlisle** and **Jim Coles** have both been strong supporters of the Friends over many years and it is a pleasure to welcome them back. **Steve Wright** and **Lana Baldwin**, along with their spouses, are both campground hosts and along with current board members **Michael and Andrea Leblance** bring a great perspective of MacGregor Point camping enthusiasts to our efforts.

One last item is to say that we are currently making a significant effort to upgrade the FOM website and hope that in the near future it will become the useful tool for describing events, activities and providing a broad range of information that people would like. Please keep an eye peeled for the new launch. By adding your e-mail address to your registration you will enable us to notify you of updates and major new postings.

Peter Harrison

MacGregor Point Provincial Park’s Special Events—2011

School Programs at MacGregor -It was another successful spring with MacGregor Point’s School Programs. We have a variety of programs for Junior Kindergarteners to Grade eights; they are a tremendous amount of fun for the Students and the Chaperones. We tallied a total of 485 students from a wide range of schools coming from all over Grey and Bruce Counties, and one school from as far away as Toronto!

MacGregor’s Got Talent - August 19th, 2011 Come and join us for an evening sure to be full of great talent! We welcome you to show us your unique skills, be it dancing, singing, or something unheard of!

September 17th and 18th, 2011 -
Wild For The Arts

Come celebrate the arts in a natural setting in MacGregor Point Provincial Park. With events for the whole family

MacGregor’s Got Talent – August 19th, Come

Park’s Day

was held successfully on July 16th, 2011

MacGregor Park participated in this Canada Wide celebration of parks systems. Events for the whole family was held all day long including:

Animal Olympics – Adventure Hunt – Mystery Evening

Visit our website for more details!!



and join us for an evening sure to be full of great talent! We welcome you to show us your unique skills, be it dancing, singing or something unheard of!

Wild for the Arts – September 17th and 18th - Come and celebrate the arts in a natural setting in MacGregor Point Provincial Park. With events for the whole family you won't want to miss activities like: the artist trail, drop-in art tent, boardwalk theatre, woodturning demonstrations, workshops and the unique Campground Studio Tour. Day-use entrance to the park is free this weekend! Thanks to Ontario Power Generation for their continued kind donation for this event. *Pre-registration required for workshops*

Fall Programming at MacGregor Point

Although we may be in the thick of peak camping season, don't forget that MacGregor Point continues to offer high quality outdoor recreation activities as the seasons begin to change. Whether your interested in a bike ride along the shore, a guided hike down a forested trail, a professional guest lecture or anything in between, come enjoy MacGregor Point's Fall Nature Series this September and October. Our Visitor Centre will be open 11am - 5pm until September and 11am -3pm until October 23. Also, the Friends of MacGregor will once again be participating in Port Elgin's Pumpkinfestival the weekend of with lots of facts, props and fun for the whole family.

Summer students hired by Friends of Macgregor- Cayly Bellan

For my summer job this year, I am working for the Friends of MacGregor Point Park.. Even though I have only completed my second week of work, I feel it is safe to say this will be the most rewarding summer job I have had yet! Being around people all day, helping them with knowledge of plants, insects and animals all around the park and just random facts about the area. I also enjoy being able to do work outside, children's programs, hikes, "Meet The Naturalists" and mystery evenings; it has all been great so far. I like being able to work with the animals in the Visitor Centre too. People love how they can touch the snakes. This is not something that everyone gets to experience. For this summer, my main goal is to give the campers the best experience I can. Whether that includes taking their campsite number so I can get back to them with information I didn't know on the spot, giving them directions if they are lost or can't find something in the area and helping the kids have the most fun they can have on their vacation. I would also like to learn stuff myself. I have already learned a lot about nature I had no clue of before. I notice so much more when I am outside now, pointing things out to my friends and family. I am having so much fun so far and have a pretty good feeling it will continue.



Norah Toth receives a painting at her retirement party. She may have retired from the payroll, but Norah continues to contribute much to MacGregor park through volunteering.

2011 Huron Fringe Birding Festival

The 14th annual Huron Fringe Birding Festival took place over two weekends in late May and early June 2011. We had about eighty events on birding, geology, plants, flowers, trees and photography, and other unique events.

New this year was the off-site Banquet at Piper's Glen Golf Club, where 100 people enjoyed an excellent meal catered by Mary Ellen Harrigan, followed by a unique three way presentation by Ethan Meleg, Mark Wiercinski and John Haselmayer (Birders gone wild on the Bruce). Our Master of Ceremony, John Cummings, added to the light hearted ambience to the evening. A silent auction conducted by Norah Toth was very successful, generating about \$800.00 for the bird blind project at the DU pond, to be built on the east side almost opposite the existing tower.

Again this year we were fortunate to have a water colour painting donated by Doug Martin to raffle, with funds going to the Bird Blind. This effort, with ticket sales at the Friend's Store and with Friends president Stewart Nutt actively selling tickets, earned \$406.00. The raffle was drawn on the second Sunday at lunch and presented to the winner.

Another first was a geology bus trip which was successfully attended. We hope to include bus trips at future festivals.

I would like to thank all our participants for attending this year. Your continuing support assures the success of the Festival and that it will continue to thrive for years to come. We thank you for your feedback by filling out our surveys. Your comments help us improve the Festival from year to year.

We had some rough weather on the second Saturday with power outages in the park. We were not seriously affected but we appreciate the patience and understanding of our participants.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteer committee members, our sponsors both corporate and private, Ontario Parks, the Visitor Center staff, Friends Store staff,

Maintenance, and the Friends of MacGregor Point Park, the Rotary Club (BBQ lunches), and all our Event Coordinator Volunteers for supporting and assisting with the Festival. Without this huge effort by our volunteers we would not have a Festival.

Planning for the Festival in 2012 is already under way. The Festival is planned for May 25 to May 28 and May 31 to June 3.

Look for an update e-mail from our registrar (B J Martin) in the fall, and for soft copy and hard copy brochures and registration forms coming in early February 2012.

Thanks again to everyone for a successful Festival.

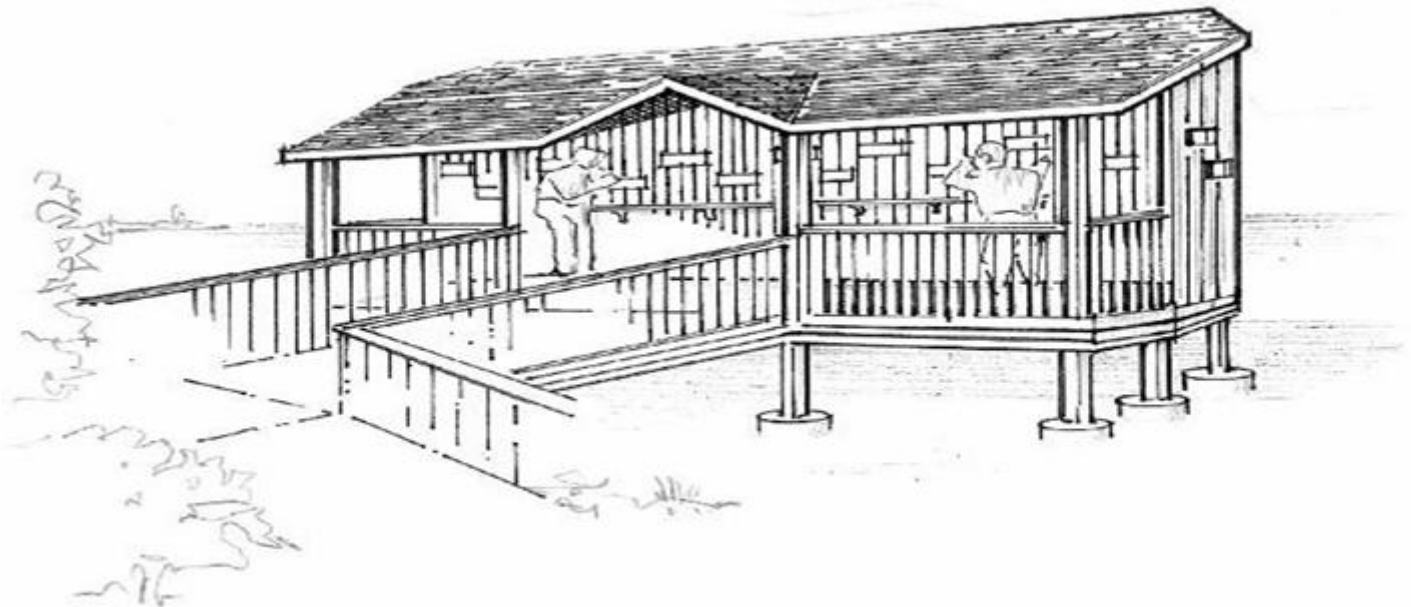
Jim Duncan: Co-chair HFBF.

Bird Blind Update

For the past two years the Friends have been raising funds for the construction of a bird blind (hide) to be located in the Ducks Unlimited wetland area of the park. The blind will enable bird watchers to have an enhanced birding experience by being able to get closer to the birds without disturbing them.

The cost of the project is estimated to be about \$25,000 and is to be started this fall. To date about 80% of the funds have been raised or pledged. Generous corporate donations have come from the Nuclear Waste Management Organization and TD Friends of the Environment Foundation. As well many individuals and families have contributed. A significant contribution was received from funds raised as a result of the Huron Fringe Birding Festival. Donations in excess of \$100 will be permanently recognized at the site.

If you would like to help us reach our goal, you can give at the visitor centre or mail the Friends a cheque. Just specify that the donation is for the bird blind.





HURON FRINGE SHOP:

Come and do some early Christmas Shopping. See the excellent selection of new items.

15% mid summer sale beginning July 29, Civic Day Weekend.

Andrea and Michael LaBlance, executive of the Friends of MacGregor, show off the newly remodelled Huron Fringe Shop with some friends!

The Friends of MacGregor Point Park are again hosting a draw for the 2011 season. Money raised from this will go towards funding for the construction of the proposed Bird Blind at the Ducks Unlimited Wetland this fall. Tickets are only \$2 for one or \$5 for five - so be sure to come out and support the Friends and this project which will be enjoyed by many for years to come. Tickets can be purchased at the MacGregor Point Provincial Park Visitor Centre. Prizes are:

- (1) A Camping Package - cooler, chairs and other essentials
- (2) A set of Robert Bateman prints - 4 nature prints in the set
- (3) A \$200 Ontario Parks gift certificate



Damage from June 7th Storm - More than 1000 trees downed with violent winds! Over \$17 000 above the regular Maintenance budget.



Picnic at the Yurt ? Fortunately, no campers or employees were hurt during this devastating storm!



Store



Main Road

Hosting at MacGregor Point (Part three) by - Clarence Bos

In the second year that we hosted at MacGregor Point, Ingrid and I agreed to serve a week in the Visitor Centre. This involves spending four hours each day (11:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.) in the Centre welcoming guests and fielding their questions.

We start each day by opening the Centre. Throughout the day we sell raffle tickets for the park, and items in the *Huron Fringe Shop* for the *Friends*. We keep the Centre tidy and do chores assigned by Norah or Matt. Some weeks the hosts are required to run the projector for a movie night.

It is important to be knowledgeable about the park. Guests, young and old, have many questions. Most often we are asked whether bears, coyotes, deer or wolves have been seen in the park. Sometimes we are asked for directions to the Park Store, the Turtle Pond or to the beach. Guests wonder how long the park store is open, and where to meet for park events. Perhaps the most enjoyable kind of questions deal with the unique park birds, trees or plants that campers just can't wait to identify. Often that means searching in one of the many field guides or on the posters in the Centre or simply asking one of the park staff for the answer.

Whether you host in the campground or at the Visitor Centre, you soon discover it is wonderful to belong to the family of hosts, staff, *Friends* and supporters of MacGregor Point Provincial Park.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - Peter Harrison

Treasurer - Bev Carlisle

Projects - Mike Pickup (Dave Cheer)

Fund Raising - Michael Rea

Recording Secretary - Norah Toth

Ontario Parks Liaison - Matt Cunliffe

Past President - Stew Nutt

New Directors - Bev Carlisle, Steve Wright, Jim Coles, Lana Baldwin

Vice-President - Jim Coles

Secretary - Lana Baldwin

**Huron Fringe Shop - Andrea &
Michael LaBlance**

Newsletter - Linda Mason

Membership - Steve Wright

FON - John Cummings

The deadline for submissions for the Fall newsletter is September 30, 2011. We welcome articles and photos. e-mail address is masonfam@bmts.com Postal address is: Linda Mason, 529 Creekwood Drive, Southampton, N0H 2L0

July has been a wonderful camping month. Please be sure to send in your membership renewal to the Friends of MacGregor Point Park for the 2011 year! Attached is a form that you can readily use and mail back to the park at the address found below.

Please complete your membership renewal and mail to :
The Friends of MacGregor Point Park, R. R. 1, Port Elgin, ON N0H 2C5 . The Friends
membership year extends from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____ ****please give us your e-mail,**

as this will reduce mailing costs for the newsletter**

Payment by: Cheque _____ Visa _____ Mastercard _____

Card Number: _____ Expiry: _____

Signature: _____

Membership Category:

Individual - \$20 _____

Family - \$30 _____

Donation in addition to membership _____

Total _____

Official Tax receipts will be issued for all
donations.