



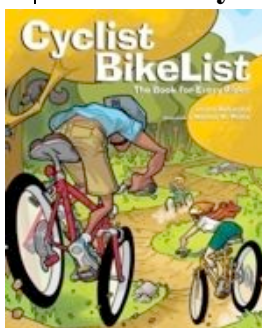
Volume 17

October 2011

Issue 4

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday October 12 -



October 12 – **The Beautiful Bicycle** – 7:30pm

Friends of MacGregor Point Provincial Park present author, Laura Robinson for an evening presentation. This talk will prepare novice and seasoned cyclists alike for fall cycling--to MacGregor Point Provincial Park and a little beyond.

Saturday, October 15th and 16th - Witches in the Woods - Halloween Festival - starts on Saturday with a Witchy Scavenger Hunt at 11:00AM commencing at the Visitors Centre

Carve your pumpkin at your campsite and bring it to the Visitors Centre by 2:00PM for judging (Categories include: Scariest pumpkin - Best kid's pumpkin - Best MacGregor themed pumpkin)

2:00Pm MacGregor's Creepy Campfire Cookout! – Meet Tom & Matt at the Campfire Circle, while you're waiting for your pumpkin to be judged and enjoy some yummy treats.

6:00- 8:00PM – **Trick or Treating-** Put on your best costume and trick or treat at MacGregor Point. Be sure to look for the “Trick-or-Treaters Welcome” sign at the campsite post before entering any site. Have fun and be ready for some tricks. ***Kids, remember to be sure to trick-or-treat at the Park store all weekend long for a special surprise!**

9:00 PM – **Night Hike- Nocturnal Noises-** Meet Park Naturalist Tom at the Visitor Centre for a Night Hike to hear the nocturnal noises of MacGregor's night-time inhabitants. It'll

be a howling good time!

Sunday, Oct 16th - Scavenger Hunt 11:00- 3:00PM,(if you missed the hunt on Saturday)

Meet the Naturalist – 2:00PM - Join Park naturalist at the Visitor Centre to learn about toads, owls and all things that howl.

*****THE VISITOR CENTRE WILL BE OPEN**

FROM 11:00AM – 5:00PM ALL WEEKEND LONG!!!! ****

Friday October 21st - Owl Prowl- 8:00PM – Come join Park Naturalist at the Administration Building for a nocturnal hike as we listen and call to the creatures of the night!

Saturday, October 22nd - The Awe of Autumn – 10:00AM - Accompany Matt on a hike to learn about some changes that come with the Fall season.

Sunday, October 23rd - Meet the Naturalist – 11:00- 2:00PM – Meet Tom to learn some interesting facts about MacGregor's Mammals!

Word Search- 11:00- 3:00PM- check out our word search.

Have fun and learn at the same time!

Harvest Dinner at the new E.S. Fox Observatory, October 29th- see article on "Clear Skies" for details

Winter-time- when the snows flies, remember to return to MacGregor Point for: winter camping or time in a Yurt: skating; snow shoeing, cross country skiing or to feed the birds

Huron Fringe Birding Festival- May 25th to June 3rd 2012

July 14,2012 – NABA Butterfly count at MacGregor Point Park

September 15th & 16th – Wild for the Arts

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Time has again flown and we are well into the fall season with events like Pumpkinfest in Port Elgin and numerous fall fairs around the area. Leaves have been changing for several weeks but are generally still on the trees and the colours again brighten everything around them. Despite forecasts of extended rain we seem to have had a considerable amount of sunshine and a promise of continued fine weather for the coming month.

The summer season has been excellent for the events and activities of the Friends. The Huron Fringe Shop has had a very successful season in terms of visitors and sales, and the end of season 30% off sale will wrap up business in October. The Wild for the Arts Festival was a great success once more, both in terms of number of participants and number of attendees. One feature which was special was the sale of baked goodies by the "Hawks" of G.C. Huston elementary school. People loved the food and the enthusiasm.

The drama students of Saugeen District Secondary School once again provided excellent entertainment with a variety of wandering minstrel activities and their very popular “human statues”. The musical entertainments were another highlight. Many of the participants expressed how much they enjoy this particular event. Again this year the weather cooperated and helped everyone’s enjoyment.

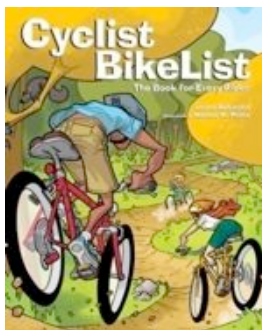
We are trying something new this year to boost the understanding of people in the area that the park has lots to offer for local people and day trippers. We have begun a partnership with the Bruce County Museum in Southampton to put on a series of presentations at the museum to introduce locals to fun activities at the park. This began on September 15th with a Family Fun Night campfire presentation by park staff. The fire pit behind the museum was excellent as were the nature based stories and games, and a special presentation of the “Pree Tittle Ligs” by Stew Nutt. An old fashioned marshmallow roast rounded out the evening.

The next event will be a presentation titled “**The Beautiful Bicycle**” at 7:30pm on Wed. Oct. 12th at the museum theatre. More information is presented below.

We hope to have one further presentation in November and will provide notice on the Friends website.

One final note is to say that the Bird Blind is now well under construction led by Bill Thorne of the park staff with some added help by park staff who we have hired and some volunteers from the Friends. Work is proceeding well and we do expect to have the Blind in full service by the time of the Huron Fringe Birding Festival in May.

Peter Harrison



October 12 – **The Beautiful Bicycle** – 7:30pm

Friends of MacGregor Point Provincial Park present author, Laura Robinson for an evening presentation. This talk will prepare novice and seasoned cyclists alike for fall cycling--to McGregor Point Provincial Park and a little beyond. Using photos of autumn's grandeur and intimacy seen from the saddle of a bicycle, Laura Robinson will connect us to our own self, one another, and the world around us. Everyone welcome!

Admission by Donation

Book cover graphic provided by Tundra Books

Bio:

LAURA ROBINSON has been a freelance journalist for nearly twenty years, and she is the author of five books on issues in sports. She was a former member of Canada’s national cycling team and a former Canadian rowing champion. Robinson coaches the Anishinaabe Racers, a mountain bike and Nordic ski team at Cape Croker First Nation Elementary School in Ontario, Canada.

Every time I see an adult on a bicycle, I no longer despair for the future of the human race.
~H.G. Wells, novelist

Huron Fringe Birding Festival 2012

Plans are well underway for the Huron Fringe Birding Festival which will be held May 25 to June 3, 2012. This will be the 15th Annual Festival.

If you have never been part of the festival or have been a participant in the past, here are some things you need to be aware of.

- Don't forget, this is a birding and nature festival. We provide events related to birding, wildflowers, landforms, insects and photography. Headquarters are located at the Visitor Centre; however, field trips make use of much of Bruce and some of Grey counties.
- If the registrar has your email address, you will not be contacted by mail. In an effort to reduce our environmental footprint, we will not be mailing postcard reminders. You will, however, receive an email reminder to the email address she has on file.
- Our bus tour – Bruce County Rocks – was a great success last spring; for this reason we plan to incorporate two bus tours into our schedule.
- The banquet contributed positively to the festival. It provided a great social opportunity and helped us to raise funds for the new bird blind at the Ducks Unlimited Wetland. We are taking into consideration concerns related to spacing of tables and the sound system as we plan this year's banquet.
- We are building on success. You will recognize many of the same leaders and a good number of new ones.
- We will be using a new expanded format for providing you information on the Friends of MacGregor Point website. We anticipate that it will help you prepare in advance for each event.
- As in the past, the program will be uploaded onto the Friends of MacGregor Point website on February 1, 2012.

The Huron Fringe Birding Festival Committee is a committee of the Friends of MacGregor Point. We are really excited about the 2012 festival. We trust that you find our program something that you can enjoy, whether you are new to birding or are quite experienced.

MACGREGOR PARK VISITORS- During Wild for the Arts, some of the Friends of MacGregor had the opportunity to photograph and ask a few questions of visitors. The questions were:

A. What brings you to MacGregor Point Park? B. How many times have you visited here? C. What would you add to improve the Park?



Everill
 Flood,
 Owen
 Sound

A.
 nature, the
 water, and
 the
 isolation of
 the
 campsites

B.
 25 – 30
 times

C.
 More
 signage on

the trails



Patrick
 and
 Nancy
 Raymond

A.
 Escape;
 enjoyed
 in May
 and
 returned
 for
 beautiful
 walking
 trails.

B. 2
 +

C.

Needs nothing!!!! Wonderful comfort stations and great programming for children and other activities!



Katherine
Bisson, Forest

A. A
vendor for
Wild for the
Arts. Nature:
Mother nature
creating

B. 3

C. Not so
many young
intoxicated
people: and
speeders!



Satako Coffell , Japan & Friend, Port Elgin

- A. Camping
- B. 4-5 times
- C. Signs giving distances and directions on trails.

HURON FRINGE SHOP- 15 % OFF FROM NOW UNTIL CLOSING, OCT.24
Open 11:00 – 3:00PM daily.

Come and do your Christmas shopping . FRIENDS OF MACGREGOR, remember that you will get an additional 15% off.

NEW BIRD BLIND - With our drier autumn, construction has begun on our new Bird Blind, which is situated on the Duck Unlimited Pond. Co-ordinated by Bill Thorne,; machines have cleared a road into the site: cement poured and construction begun on the blind itself, with the help of some volunteers. The walkway and stone-dust, which will also make this blind, wheel-chair accessible , also is hoped to be completed before the snow flies. With approximately \$27,000 raised through corporate and private donations, the completion of the project with signage is currently on target.



New blind will eventually be camouflaged with more reeds, etc.





View from new blind to viewing tower.

WEB SITE - Our web site is in the process of being updated. Stay tuned for some wonderful changes. The newsletter will continue to be posted on the web, as well as emailed and mailed to non-computerites. You can still find us at www.friendsofmacgregor.org

Clear Skies Ahead

The Bruce Peninsula is one of the very last places in Southern Ontario that has minimal light pollution, attracting thousands of outdoor enthusiasts who travel to escape the city lights and to enjoy its Caribbean-like waters, cliffs and starry skies. Both of the Peninsula's national parks are designated by the Royal Astronomical Society as Dark Sky Preserves, and the Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula is a dedicated Dark Sky community. You may be wondering, what is all the Dark Sky talk about and why is it important?

Major benefits of a natural night sky:

1. Wildlife and Habitat Preservation - Animals require dark night skies and minimum excess artificial light to maintain biological cycles, foraging, predation and migration patterns. For

example, MacGregor Point is an important migratory corridor for birds. A current phenomenon occurs when birds fly into light domes during the night, and because they can't instinctually fly from an area of light to dark, they become trapped there, flying in circles all night. By morning, they have expended large amounts of energy, haven't reached their destination, and have missed other important behaviours.

2. **Socio-Cultural** Starry skies are part of First Nations' oral histories and so preserving these main cultural enjoyments. Backyard astronomers and other nature enthusiasts enjoy viewing a truly starry sky, which is part of the Peninsula's local culture.
3. **Economic** A dark sky promotes sustainable economic development and tourism/cottaging potential for millions who are within a good day's drive to this premier dark sky destination.
4. **Safety Concerns** Glare from exterior lighting can create light contrast and shadows, which reduces visibility. Motion features in parking lots and public spaces can provide a form of alert not offered by areas which stay lighted all night.
5. **Energy Conservation** - Billions of dollars are wasted each year in North America on excess light. Efficient lighting can reduce energy consumption by 50%, while still providing adequate light.

As a homeowner, you can: Adjust your exterior lights! Ensure that lights point down, and if possible find fixtures in which the bulb is recessed up into the cap so that glare is reduced. Retrofit fixtures with timers or motion features. Buy bulbs which are yellow, soft or warm white in colour as they have a lighter impact on wildlife and attract fewer bugs. Consider using blinds at night and be aware of any 'light trespass' spilling onto your neighbour's yard. Our goal is to reduce the overall area, duration and intensity of light.

Harvest Dinner at the new E.S. Fox Observatory, October 29th

"Keeping Alive the Sense of Wonder"- by renowned guest speaker/ astronomer Doug Cunningham. Doors open at 5pm for appetizers, drinks and silent auction. Dinner and live music at 6:30, and if weather permits, a visit to the observatory to follow. \$50 per ticket- A fundraiser for the E.S. Fox Observatory project. More info at: bluewaterastronomy.info

Get involved with the Dark Skies project!

The Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association is recruiting volunteers to assist with the Dark Skies project. Please contact Jess McGarry, community engagement coordinator, at 519-387-4877. The Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association was the first not-for-profit, community-based organization to implement the concepts of UNESCO World Biosphere Reserves along the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere.

MEMBERSHIP -

Thanks to all the wonderful Friends who have joined or rejoined our group this year. Our membership has increased this year, with a total, before Pumpkinfest, at 106. Your membership fees help to build some marvellous additions to MacGregor Park (Rotary Trail; Bird Blinds, etc.) and help fund our incredible Naturalists at the Visitor Centre. Those of you that have included your email on your membership help keep our mailing

costs down. If you have not been receiving your copy of “The Spotted Turtle”, on-line or through the mail, please contact Linda Mason: masonfam@bmts.com : 519-483-2321 or drop a note to 529 Creekwood Drive, Southampton, N0H 2L0

PUMPKINFEST 2011 - Sunshine, no snow or rain, brought many visitors



through the OPG(Ontario Power Generation) Tent and to the display for MacGregor Point Park and The Friends.

Leslie Elliot, from Southampton, brought her grand-daughter, Jaime Elliot, from Toronto, to Jaime’s first Pumpkinfest. Matt Cunliffe, one of our excellent naturalists, shows Jaime some of the different turtles found at MacGregor Point. Jaime was a little wary of the shells and furs at first, but Matt’s warm smiles and explanations won her over!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - Peter Harrison	Vice-President - Jim Coles
Treasurer - Bev Carlisle	Secretary - Lana Baldwin
Projects - Mike Pickup (Dave Cheer)	Huron Fringe Shop - Andrea & Michael LaBlance
Fund Raising - Michael Rea	Newsletter - Linda Mason
Recording Secretary - Norah Toth	Membership - Steve Wright
Ontario Parks Liaison - Matt Cunliffe	FON - John Cummings
Past President - Stew Nutt	
New Directors - Bev Carlisle, Steve Wright, Jim Coles, Lana Baldwin	

The deadline for submissions for the Winter Newsletter is January 30, 2012. We welcome articles and photos. e-mail address is masonfam@bmts.com Postal address is: Linda Mason, 529 Creekwood Drive, Southampton, NOH 2L0

This fall has been exceptional for being out of doors. We hope to see you in the winter months or at least in the spring. Please be sure to send in your membership renewal to the Friends of MacGregor Point Park for the 2012 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, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____ ****please give us your e-mail, as this will reduce mailing costs for the newsletter****

Would you like to be contacted to volunteer at any of the builds or fund-raising functions(i.e. BBQ's) ?

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.