



**COMING EVENTS**

- October 20— Witches in the Woods
- Saugeen Shores Christmas Bird Count- Jan. 2, 2013
- February 7- Deadline for Spotted Turtle
- February 16-18- Family Day Weekend
- May 24-27, May 30- June 2- Huron Fringe Birding Festival
- ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING- Sat. June 22, 2013

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

The weather has continued to be fine for most of the late summer and the recent rain has been welcomed by many. There have still been plenty of warm fall days and the Wild for the Arts Festival benefited from another lovely weekend. Everyone who attended or participated spoke well of what a great event this is. Grant funding for this activity was cut back this year but we hope to keep it going as we adjust to new resource availability. Thank goodness for our many volunteers.

The Friends board continues to meet regularly and are never at a loss for



Peter & a presenter

items to discuss and work on. Fundraising is always an important topic and we have been very happy with the recent ticket sales for our annual lottery. The first place prize kayak which is normally on display at the Visitor Centre made a great focal point at the entrance to the Wild for the Arts Festival and ticket sales were brisk. Second prize

is a great stand-alone garden fountain and third prize is \$200 of Gift Certificates from Ontario Parks. Tickets for the November draw are available at the Visitor Centre and in Port Elgin at Scoreboard Sports.

The board was also very pleased to receive a donation from the Huron Fringe Birding Festival committee at our last meeting. With the completion of the Bird Blind project these funds will go toward other park activity enhancements.

Environmental Assessments and grant funding applications are in the works for a number of projects which will benefit a

wide variety of park users. We have recently committed to a further upgrade of the Friends website which will improve the on-line registration process for park activities. We are also looking at other improvements to enhance the use of the website.

The Huron Fringe Shop continues to see increased sales and we are very grateful to Mike and Andrea LaBlance for their dedicated management. The bottle return business has also gone extremely well. We thank all of our Hosts and particularly Charles and Ruth Kuenzig who have been especially successful in collecting bottles for deposit return.

The upgrade to the Outdoor Stage at the campfire circle near the Visitor Centre was completed in time for the Wild for the Arts Festival. The new stage is roughly four times the size of the old stage, slightly raised above grade and surrounded on three sides by a railing. It looks great and will accommodate expanded presentations.

The "way sign" project is proceeding well and will be installed this fall. These signs will be posted at junctions and other prominent points to help hikers and cyclers. Trail mapping for park users is making

steady progress and we are in the process of pricing printing costs.

On a closing note a number of the Friends board members will be attending the Provincial Circle of Friends conference in October. This is an excellent opportunity to learn how other Friends groups are meeting challenges and to share resources.

Be well and enjoy the wonderful fall season.

Peter Harrison

**All photos in this issue are thanks to  
Michael D.J. Crossling**

## **A History of the Friends of MacGregor Point - In the Beginning there was.....**

Doug Martin and I have been asked to prepare an article for the newsletter about the history of the Friends of MacGregor Point Park. This has resulted in digging into old files and reviewing Annual Reports. One article would not do justice to the accomplishments of our Friends group. This initial article will be the first in a series.

Chris Tomsett, the Superintendent in 1992, always tried to challenge his staff. He was a man of vision and the Friends of Algonquin Park was a vision to aspire to. The Parks program had recently gone through some changes and Norah Toth was now attached to MacGregor Point. What would he do with her? Chris saw an opportunity. Norah came to the Park with a love of volunteers and volunteering. This was a perfect fit for the development and nurturing of a Friends group.

In the fall of 1992, Norah hosted an information meeting for people who might be interested in the formation of a Friends group for MacGregor Point Provincial Park. This meeting was held in the Visitor Centre. Around 25 people attended. She provided a list of Objectives for everyone to review. These objectives have remained constant over the 20 years that the Friends of MacGregor Point have existed.

And I quote:

1. To encourage and support the Crown's mandate and programs for interpretive, educational, scientific, historical. Protection and preservation purposes related to the natural and historic resources of MacGregor Point Provincial Park, and other Ontario Provincial Parks and Recreational Areas by:
  - a) Raising funds to supplement complement and enhance Park programs.
  - b) Undertaking specific projects and initiatives, or promoting and organizing special events compatible with the Park's approved themes and objectives and as agreed to by the Friends from time to time.
  - c) Providing positive social, economic and physical support for the Park's activities and programs.
2. To function as a charitable, non-profit corporation for the purpose of fund raising in accordance with Provincial and Federal Statutes on a continuing basis.
3. To accept donations, bequests and other gifts, and to charge membership fees which will be used to further the objectives of the organization.
4. To enter into agreements with the Minister of Natural Resources for the operation of sales outlets and development of high quality, park and recreation area specific, theme-related items and materials for sale.
5. To develop programs which further the public's awareness, education, understanding and appreciation of the Park's natural and human heritage resources.

As you can see, Co-operating Associations have a number of basic principles.

We are an incorporated not-for-profit, charitable organization. We are community based and have a Board of Directors. We have a membership and are attached to a specific park; in our case MacGregor Point Provincial Park. Our primary objective is to augment the park's interpretive and educational programs.

When the Friends of MacGregor Point was conceived there were 8 associations: the Friends of Algonquin, Quetico, Killarney, Presqu'île, Pinery, Bon Echo and The Teaching Rocks (Petroglyphs). Today there are 27.

This was only the beginning of the relationship between MacGregor Point and the Friends. It looks like a lot of hard work; but when you had people who have the same vision; it really was easy. Doug and I look forward to highlighting some of the Friends accomplishments over the next few issues in this our 20<sup>th</sup> year.

Norah Toth, Park Liaison and Natural Heritage Education Specialist, retired

Doug Martin, Founding President and current Member of the Board of Directors

### **Ministry of Natural Resources enters a Time of Transformation**

I am pleased to share with the Friends what I have learned to date regarding the Ministry of Natural Resources transformation.

At this time there is little impact on operations at MacGregor Point Provincial Park. Following the elimination of an administrative zone office our zone will be expanding to include Awenda, Wasaga Beach and Craigleith Provincial Parks plus seven non-operating parks. This is a positive for MacGregor Point as we share geographic and operating similarities with the three operating parks and the Niagara Escarpment non-operating parks; as I foresee the opportunity to work closely with each other on shared resource management initiatives.

Fortunately, changes to date have not affected the staff contracts or work schedules at MacGregor Point. We know that further information will be forthcoming as the transformation continues. I will be sure to keep the Friends posted on how any future change may directly affect MacGregor Point.

Keith Early

Park Superintendent

MacGregor Point, Sauble Falls, Inverhuron

Bruce Peninsula Nature Reserves

#### **HURON FRINGE SHOP**

**15% off all store merchandise continues**

**Until store closing Nov. 3**

**\*\*REMEMBER, AS A Friend of MacGregor Point you**

**Already receive 15% discount**

Young bird enthusiasts feed birds at Wild for the Arts Festival.



Shoppers observe First Nations Drums.



## **Wild for the Arts 2012**

What a great weekend! Mother Nature was kind to us this year and kept the rain out of the park (for the most part anyways) and let everyone enjoy all that Wild for the Arts had to offer. Whether it was the studio tour, workshops, food vendors, drop in crafts, adventure trail, storytellers, live music or chicken dinner, everything seemed to go off without a hitch. Our campground hosts and volunteers did a great job helping out with set-up and tear down, meeting and greeting and taking shifts at the Friends booth.

Saturday night was full of activity as the Meet a Friend at Summers End Chicken BBQ got underway. The Visitor Centre was brimming with hungry campers ready to enjoy a fresh home cooked meal. With their appetites satisfied, the crowd found their way back to the Musical Meanderings site for an evening of live entertainment. Comedian and host Jennifer O'Reilly had everyone in stitches and was the perfect warm-up to Andrew Young's thrilling vaudeville act. To close out the night, Midtown Cross took the stage and awed the crowd with their infectious rhythm and funk-filled grooves.

With all the excitement of Saturday wrapped up, Sunday was able to be a nice relaxing walk through the Park to get one more look at all the amazing art on display. All in all the 2012 edition of Wild for the Arts was a great success. With all the great comments and suggestions from participants, vendors, volunteers and staff, next year's festival should be even better, although it does have some big shoes to fill.

Here is a quick breakdown of some of the highlights:

- 2,400+ people came through the Park during the weekend
- Sales in the Huron Fringe shop and raffle tickets, in support of Friends of MacGregor were very successful
- 86 meals sold at the chicken barbeque
- 80+ people attended the Saturday evening concert
- No injuries, missing persons or "bad vibes" to speak of



Wood Turning display.

## **News from Ontario Nature- Endangered Species**

### **Act update** *Submitted by Caroline Schultz, Ontario Nature*

Thanks to support from our Nature Network groups, we won an important battle last spring in the war against the provincial government's omnibus budget bill, Bill 55. With mounting pressure from concerned citizens like you, Schedule 19 covering amendments to the Endangered Species Act was pulled from the bill. Ontario Nature continues to negotiate with the McGuinty government to keep Schedule 19 out of Bill 55, but if they decide to proceed with their proposed amendments, we may need to call on you again. Our sincere thanks for your support, and stay tuned for further updates over the coming weeks



Dedicated Rotary Members  
serve up lots of great BBQ  
goodies in the sunshine at  
Wild for the Arts Festival

### **NEWS FROM FRIENDS' SUMMER EMPLOYEE-Kathleen Chayer**

Hello again Friends!

The summer seems to have slipped past me; I've been having such a marvelous time at MacGregor Point! This job has been incredible. My favourite part is probably getting to work with such fun, kind and knowledgeable staff. It's been a pleasure getting to shadow guided hikes with Matt and Tom, and doing Meet the Naturalist and Children Programs with the rest of the summer staff. It has been interesting to see what each staff is passionate about and seeing that passion in the way they run their programs. At the beginning of this job I was really impressed with how much everyone on staff knows about the natural world, but I'm proud to say I keep surprising myself with how much I've learned this past summer as well.

The second best thing about my position as a Natural Heritage Educator Aide has definitely been the programs. All three Mystery Evenings were a huge success, the North American Butterfly Count was great fun, and I really enjoy providing programs for the many children that came to the Park this season. I was always eager to hear what my next program would be about so I could start reading up on the subject. The Meet the Naturalist programs have also helped me to learn all kinds of things about the Park and the diverse flora and fauna that call it home.

## **ONTARIO NATURE'S YOUTH SUMMIT FOR BIODIVERSITY**

Once again the Friends of MacGregor Point Park have sponsored two local youths to attend the Youth Summit . We hope that through this sponsorship we will help students appreciate our world and potentially make a difference. Following, you will find letters from the two participants.

Dear Friends of MacGregor,

As a grade 12 student at SDSS, I am an active member of the high school's eco group; the Planetears. This was my second year attending the Youth Summit for Biodiversity, and I greatly enjoyed the experience! The Summit was held at the beautiful Geneva Park in Orillia, located right on Lake Couchiching. Over the course of the weekend, we were given the opportunity to hold snakes and turtles, see endangered Ontario birds, and learn about the production of sustainable chocolate. I gained some insight into Environmental Law as a career, and was shown which plants in my backyard that I could eat, and which to steer clear of! Along with these wonderful workshops, I met so many people who are passionate about saving our environment and making it sustainable for the future. This Summit has made me even more dedicated to protecting our Earth, and made me appreciate the world around us that much more.

Thank you very much for the opportunity,

Aimee Bertin

Dear Friends of MacGregor,

I wish to thank you for sponsoring me, a student of SDSS, to participate in the 2012 Ontario Nature Youth Summit. I loved being in touch with nature, and fully enjoyed the outdoor workshops, as well as the indoor workshops, which were both very educational. The "Medicinal Plants of Ontario" workshop was especially interesting because it really opened my eyes to how much we can do with plants that are literally in our backyards. I was pleased with how passionate and knowledgeable the presenters and staff were about their jobs and interests. I thought it was fantastic to meet the other youth who attended the Summit. It was great to be surrounded by others who were alike and yet so diverse; we are all driven by different things, and toward different goals, however it all boils down to caring and inspiring others. Thank you once again Friends of MacGregor for presenting such wonderful opportunities to us!

Kyra Smith

Fiddlers perform for audience at Wild for the Arts Festival on the new stage.





## **INVASIVE SPECIES**

### **Ohio DNR News Release - 2012 Sample Results Found Asian Carp eDNA in Sandusky Bay**

(The following is a joint news release issued by the Ohio and Michigan Departments of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - August 28, 2012)

On July 30-31, Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers collected 150 water samples from the Sandusky Bay and Sandusky River. Analysis of these water samples indicated 20 samples out of 150 taken from throughout Sandusky Bay and Sandusky River have tested positive for the presence of silver carp environmental DNA (eDNA).

The eDNA samples were collected as part of extensive sampling effort conducted earlier this summer for Asian carp in Sandusky Bay and Maumee Bay in western Lake Erie. No Asian carp were found through intensive electrofishing and test netting. Maumee Bay eDNA results are currently being analyzed. . . .

At present, eDNA evidence cannot verify whether live Asian carp are present, whether the DNA may have come from a dead fish, or whether water containing Asian carp DNA may have been transported from other sources such as bilge water, storm sewers or fish-eating birds. The Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Geological Survey are leading a two-year Asian Carp Environmental DNA Calibration Study (ECALS), funded through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to reduce the uncertainty surrounding Asian carp environmental DNA (eDNA) results.

“The breadth of positive samples from the Sandusky Bay area was not expected,” said Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Chief Jim Dexter. “We need to understand the source of the eDNA in order to address it and keep silver and bighead carp from establishing a viable population in the Great Lakes.”

Since extensive sampling conducted for this species this summer, as well as extensive sampling conducted historically, have yielded no live fish, the data suggests that if Asian carp are present, then they are in very low abundance.

“These eDNA samples provide useful information to help guide our monitoring of Lake Erie and our response to any threat of Asian carp to the Great Lakes,” said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Midwest Deputy Regional Director Charlie Wooley. “While there is still uncertainty about the source of eDNA, the recent findings provide another point of data as we work with Ohio and Michigan to assess the status of Asian carp in the area. I want to stress that recent fish sampling activities, such as gill netting and electrofishing, have not provided any physical evidence that live Asian carp are present in western Lake Erie.

Asian carp, including bighead and silver carp, pose a significant threat to the Great Lakes ecosystem and economy. Help from the public, especially Great Lakes anglers, will be imperative moving forward. All anglers are highly encouraged to learn how to identify Asian carp, including both adults and juveniles, as the spread of juvenile Asian carp through the use of live bait buckets has been identified as a possible entry point into the Great Lakes. A video teaching people how to identify bighead and silver carp is available on the Service’s YouTube channel at <http://youtu.be/B49OWrCRs38>.

If anglers or constituents have observed or captured an Asian carp, immediately notify ODNR at 800-WILDLIFE (945-3543). Photograph the fish from nose to tail, and retain the fish on ice for verification. Photographs can be sent directly to ODNR at [wildohio.com](http://wildohio.com) by clicking on the Asian Carp link and following the instructions.

## **Board of Directors 2012 – 2013**

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**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 extends one year from the month you join. \_**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ **\*\*PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR E-MAIL AS IT HELPS DECREASE**

**MAILINGS** E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**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.

**Attention Friends,** We are now looking for individuals who would be interested in managing our Huron Fringe Gift Shop. The Huron Fringe Gift Shop is one of the major fundraisers that The Friends maintain year after year which in turn contributes to the enhancement of park features as well as providing funding for interpretive staff to be hired during the summer. This is a rewarding experience that will help hone and challenge your organizational skills. If you are interested please contact the Park Liaison Matthew Cunliffe at 519-389-6231 or email us at [fompp@bmts.com](mailto:fompp@bmts.com) ]

Sageen Secondary Students and advisor at Wild for the Arts Festival.



Wild for the Arts participant shows her wares in the beautiful sunshine.