

VOLUNTEER ROLES AT BON ECHO

Ninety volunteers fill over 100 positions at Bon Echo. The following is a summary of some opportunities to serve and have some fun!

- **Art Exhibition and Sale July 26, 27, 28, 2013**
This event calls 50 people into action each day. We need people to be greeters, serve Oktoberfest sausages and hamburgers, sell baked goods, and relate to artists as 'accountants'. Parking control, set-up / take down and preparation of the artists' dinner requires help too. Warning: Volunteering can become addictive.
Volunteer Coordinator: Ernest Lapchinski 613-336-2010
- **Lagoon Barbecues Sat. & Sun./July-Aug./ 12 to 2pm**
Teams of 4 set-up at the Lagoon and serve delicious food to happy campers. Set-up and Clean-up requires action from 11- 3. Teams bond well and ask for more opportunities.
Volunteer Coordinator: Sue Barchard 613-336-1002
- **Amphitheatre Hosts: Selected evenings July - August**
The Friends sponsor several NHE amphitheatre programs. Volunteers represent the Friends, sell raffle tickets and answer questions. This is a good place to put a face to the Friends and to enjoy the performances on stage .
Volunteer Coordinator: Suzanne Sills 613-336-2811
- **Greystones Gift & Book Shop: All season**
Volunteers assist Helen Yanch to set up in spring and sell, sell, sell in summer. Here is a great chance to interact with Park visitors and be involved in retail sales.
Volunteer Coordinator: Phyllis Mills 613-771-9460
- **Fleet Committee**
The Committee assesses Tour Boat issues and assists in maintenance. *Chair: Red Emond 613-336-8011*
- **Bursary Committee**
The Committee meets once in August to determine recipients of the Friends Bursaries. *Chair: Bill Campbell 613-336-8526*
- **Board of Directors:**
The Directors meet approximately 4/year. They set goals and priorities providing direction for the Friends and work with the Executive Director to orchestrate many activities. Term: 3 yrs.
President: David Deacon 613-336-8482



Volunteer Handbook 2013



Celebrating 25 years of service to Bon Echo Park

Our Values

The Friends of Bon Echo Park is an association of volunteers. We value teamwork and initiative in effecting change. We are empowered to serve in this active provincial park by our commitment to our natural and cultural heritage. We strive to act in a manner that is environmentally conscientious.

Our Vision

Our vision is to provide and assist activities that encourage recognition of the inherent beauty of the environment as well as the delicate balance in the natural habitat. Creative expression and its appreciation are supported. Understanding of our cultural heritage is fostered through our publications, projects and presentations. Our educational programs and activities reflect our values and vision. Projects in which we engage endeavour to generate a positive climate within the Park.

Our Mission

Our Values and Vision are reflected in our Mission Statement:

**The Friends of Bon Echo Park
is a non-profit organization dedicated
to preserving the natural and cultural heritage
of Bon Echo Provincial Park.**

Welcome Volunteer!

We appreciate your willingness to help the Friends of Bon Echo accomplish the goal of preserving the natural and cultural heritage of Bon Echo. The purpose of this handbook is

- to help you know more about the Friends and what we have done and are doing at Bon Echo.
- to highlight the significance and role of volunteering.
- to provide a brief history of Bon Echo.
- to share our Volunteer Policy.
- to introduce you to the variety of roles you can play in this great Park.
- to inform you of the 2013 Special Events at Bon Echo.

Who We Are and What We Have Done

The front cover explains our passion and purpose. The Friends of Bon Echo was born in 1988. We have succeeded because of our strong commitment to our mission. Numerous volunteers contribute time, energy, skills and resources to carry us forward. Many other members faithfully support us with resources and encouragement.

The list of our accomplishments to enhance the Park and its use is long. Publication of books and trail guides, provision of educational equipment and Visitor Centre displays, bursary programs encouraging students to pursue related studies, orchestration of eighteen art shows, renovation of the Greystones cottage, funding of over one hundred Natural Heritage Education (NHE) staff, operation of two tour boats, the Adopt-an-Ancient Cedar Project, the Gift Shop and Art Gallery as well as the Lagoon Barbecues are all on the list. Through the NHE Program, Friends support has trained and encouraged hundreds of thousands of campers to be conscientious and appreciative caretakers of the gift of our natural environment.

All projects we undertake serve to fulfill our mission. The tour boats, gift shop, art show, barbecues and raffle are ventures that both carry our mission forward and earn the funds to support Natural Heritage Education.

Special Events 2013

June 29 - Sciensational Sssnakes!!

Two presentations on reptiles.

Times: 11am /1pm **Location:** Children's Program Area



July 6- Traditional Teachings.

Members of Ardoch First Nation provide insight into their culture and history.

Time: 7 pm **Location:** Children's Program Area

July 11 - David Archibald Singer, entertainer for the whole family.

Time: 7 pm **Location:** Amphitheatre



July 18 — Margaret Axford — Bon Echo: The Early Years

The Big Three who shaped Bon Echo

Time: 8 pm (also 7 pm on Aug. 22) **Location:** Amphitheatre

July 20- Bill Bickle — Wildlife Photographer

2012 Canadian Wildlife Photographer of the year.

Time: 8 pm **Location:** Amphitheatre



July 26, 27, 28 - Bon Echo Art Exhibition and Sale

Don't miss this great show. Great art, food, entertainment.

Times: 10 am - 4 pm **Location:** Children's Program Area

August 3- Margaret Hall and Chris Jackson

A.J. Casson's daughter will share anecdotes about her father .

Time: 7 pm **Location:** Amphitheatre

August 10 - Dr. Robert McLeman — Climate Change

Learn how the forests have changed over the past 1000 years as a result of climate change and human activities.

Time: 8pm **Location:** Amphitheatre .



August 15 - Speaking of Wildlife — Live Demonstration

Join *Speaking of Wildlife* for a close encounter with animals.

Time: 1 pm **Location:** Amphitheatre

August 18 — Margaret Axford — Bon Echo: The Early Years

Time: 7pm (Also 7 pm on Aug. 22) **Location:** Amphitheatre

August 24 - Bill White of "White Pine"

Award winning Bluegrass music to keep you toe-tapping.

Time: BBQ 4:30—7:00 pm **Location:** Amphitheatre



Kevin Callan—Canoeist, Outdoorsman

Date: to be confirmed **Location:** Amphitheatre

The Friends will cover Park admission charges for some events.

Check our website all summer for daily Park programs.

www.BonEchoFriends.ca

A One Page History of Paradise (Bon Echo)

- Mazinaw Rock:** 100 m high x 150 m deep x 1.5 km long
Old as the hills
- Pre-1900** Aboriginal (Algonquin) seasonal encampments
Pictographs painted on Mazinaw Rock
Massanoga-"a painted place"
Lumbering – extensive clear cutting - "bald hills"
- 1900** **Dr. Weston Price** (Cleveland dentist)
Bon Echo Inn built in 2 years
Ladder built to ascend the rock
Active as Christian spiritual retreat
Dr. Price departs to engage in nutritional research
- 1910** **Flora MacDonald Denison**
Suffragette leader, feminist
Founded the Whitman Club of Bon Echo devoted to the writings of poet Walt Whitman
Edited *The Sunset of Bon Echo* (6 issues)
Whitman inscription on Mazinaw Rock
A venue for artists, drama and music
- 1919** **Merrill Denison**
Author, playwright
Member of Art & Letters Club, Toronto
Invited Group of Seven to paint at Mazinaw
Deeply committed to conservation, Merrill considered options to perpetuate natural use of land.
The Bon Echo Inn destroyed by lightning in 1936
- 1965** **Opening of Bon Echo Provincial Park**
Land donated by Merrill Denison
Largest provincial park in eastern Ontario
180,000 annual visitors
- 1988** **Founding of Friends of Bon Echo Park**
- 2013** **Celebrating 25 years of service to Bon Echo Park**
An active group of 90 volunteers serving the Park

The Role We Play in Bon Echo Today

The Friends are governed by nine **Directors** elected by the membership for a term of 3 years. Each Director serves in one or several capacities in order to organize our many activities.

The Friends operate **two tour boats** on Mazinaw Lake providing interpretive tours of the lake and Mazinaw Rock as well as a ferry to the base of the Cliff Top Trail. The sale of natural and culturally related products in the **Greystones Gift and Book Shop** and the **Colin Edwards Memorial Art Gallery** provides an excellent revenue source while disseminating information, clothing and art tailored to our mission. Operation Manager Helen Yanch administers both the shop and the boats.

Artists have been inspired by Bon Echo for centuries. Beginning with the Native Pictographs, followed by the Group of Seven and the myriad of artists who continue to come, the annual **Art Exhibition and Sale** carries forward the artistic heritage of Bon Echo. Forty five artists showcase their original artwork amid the festive atmosphere of live music, Scienstational Ssnakes!!, great food and activities for the whole family.

Weekend **Lagoon Barbecues** provide appetizing food to hundreds of Park visitors every summer. The annual **Raffle** features donated Park-related prizes. Both these ventures provide the Friends significant income. Committee support, co-ordination, promotion and logistical backup are provided by Executive Director, Derek Maggs.

The backbone of Friends programs are our **volunteers**. Their faithfulness, enthusiasm, supportive nature and from-the-heart contribution ensure the ongoing success of the Friends of Bon Echo. Volunteer support has enabled us to allocate over \$300,000 to Park programs in the last 8 years.

Friends contributions to the NHE Program enable the Park to double their staff. Over 60,000 visitors participate in NHE programs annually. The Friends also initiate and support **amphitheatre programs** providing special programming such as live animal demonstrations, related lectures, musical entertainment, and astronomic observations.

Friends of Bon Echo Park Volunteer Policy (Summarized)



Volunteers interact with each other, Park staff, and with the many visitors to Bon Echo Provincial Park. Numerous Friends of Bon Echo (FOBE) volunteers serve Park visitors by acting on the Board of Directors and its committees, running the Art Exhibition and Sale, operating the Lagoon Barbecue, assisting in the Greystones Gift and Book Shop, overseeing the boats, representing the FOBE at amphitheatre events and by participating in special projects.

Our volunteers are our most valued asset. The achievements of the FOBE are dependent on the successful discharge of volunteers' responsibilities. We are committed to creating a safe and secure environment for everyone involved in our organization.

Volunteers should expect that

- they will be treated with respect, dignity and consideration.
- they will not be discriminated against on the basis of race, gender, religion or sexual orientation.
- their commitment and contribution will be recognized and appreciated.
- appropriate measures will be taken to ensure their safety and the safety of those they serve.
- they will be adequately prepared and equipped for the roles assigned to them.
- effort will be given to selecting tasks appropriate to their interests and abilities.
- they will be given a clear understanding of their roles and be provided with a written job description.
- the FOBE carries a liability insurance policy that covers the actions of volunteers.

The Friends of Bon Echo should expect that volunteers will

- work as team members, sharing their gifts and abilities.
- understand and support Our Values, Vision and Mission, Park standards and our role within the Park.
- be loyal to the FOBE and maintain its dignity and integrity with the public.
- accept the policies and follow the guidelines established by the FOBE.
- respect the principle of confidentiality and follow the same ethical standards expected of all Friends staff.
- accept the assignment of their choice, relative to their personal abilities and decline assignments with which they are uncomfortable.
- not feel they own a volunteer position.
- feel free to pick up the slack of another volunteer when requested.
- be open to commending or critiquing the FOBE and its volunteers/ staff to the appropriate people in a respectful manner.
- provide a police records check if required.



Volunteer BBQ
Sat. July 13th 4-8 PM Home of Dave & Trudy Deacon
17276 Hwy 41 (6 km north of Park) 613-336-8482
Be sure to join us for fun, food, fellowship.