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Volume 17 Number 1

WHAT DO WE DO WITH OUR MONEY

As a member of the Friends of MacGregor Point Park did you ever wonder what happens to the money that we take in every year? First off, and logically so, we have so called normal expenses. This list includes such items as office supplies, insurance, accounting fee, telephone, store expenses, advertising, website maintenance and related program costs.

We receive income from your memberships, government grants, programs we operate, donations and store sales. Like any business enterprise our objective each year is to make a profit. What happens to that profit?

The purpose of the Friends is to work with the Park to present to the camper and the public a set of quality nature experiences that they will enjoy and benefit from. To that end the Friends are responsible for on going activities such as the Huron Fringe Birding Festival, Wild for the Arts, regular summer park programs complete with guides and presenters, some student salaries and trail and office upgrades.

Over the years the Friends have taken on large, long range, costly endeavours that have greatly enhanced the Park's natural beauty and function.

These projects have included the Bird Watching Tower, kilometres of boardwalk trails, the newly constructed Rotary Way trail and most recently the Bird Blind construction in the Ducks Unlimited pond.

It's not often that when you donate you directly benefit from that donation. As a member of the Friends of MacGregor Point Park you reap the rewards of your investment every time you visit. Dave Cheer Treasurer



Watts Family enjoying skating loop on Family Day.

Hosting at MacGregor Point

Clarence Bos

In the summer of 2007, Ingrid and I experienced our first year of joint retirement. With the life time of year-round busy-ness that comes with having careers in teaching / principal ship and managing a town library, we were both ready to take some time off.

We had always enjoyed camping so we decided to explore some new campgrounds in Ontario. That summer and fall, we discovered Inverhuron and MacGregor Point. Two things happened. We fell in love with the two parks and we met Darold and Glennis Snodgrass who were the camp hosts at Inverhuron. They told us about the camp's hosting program and encouraged us, if we were interested in helping with the program, to speak to Norah Toth at the Visitor Centre.

At MacGregor Point we met Rafael and Elvira Verdecchia who were the Visitor Centre hosts. They gave us a tour of the Centre and introduced us to Norah. Norah had us fill in the application form. She agreed to interview us at a future date, informed us of the mandatory police check and the orientation day in April. The rest is history.

We have been coming to MacGregor Point as campground and Visitor Centre hosts every year since. Whether we are helping campers, picking up litter, or helping the *Friends of the Park* by assisting customers in the *Huron Fringe Shop*, the hours that we spend volunteering are always eventful and worthwhile.

In the next issue we'll explore what you can expect if you are a campground host.



What do you call a group of skiers??? A gaggle or a giggle?

Your “ONTARIO NATURE” Connection:

Ontario Nature is a charitable organization representing more than 30,000 members and supporters and 140 member groups across Ontario. Your group, *The Friends Of MacGregor*, is one of these member groups. A representative of *The Friends Of MacGregor* Board sits on the Ontario Nature Great Lakes West Region Committee headed by Joan Daynard, who is a Regional Club Director sitting on the Ontario Nature Board Of Directors.

Ontario Nature protects wild species and wild spaces through conservation, education and public engagement.

Since it was established as the Federation of Ontario Naturalists in 1931, Ontario Nature has been a champion for nature in Ontario.

From spearheading the creation of a wilderness area in Algonquin Park in 1934 to working tirelessly for the creation of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan in 2001; publishing science-based research for scholars and education materials for young naturalists; advocating for Ontario's original Endangered Species Act 1971 to pushing for its timely revision in 2007, Ontario Nature has been at the forefront of the conservation movement in this province. Today, a Nature Network of more than 140 member organizations such as The Friends Of MacGregor and 30,000 members and supporters sustains Ontario Nature's voice.

Ontario Nature's Goals:

- **Protect** and restore nature in Ontario..
- **Connect** people with nature.
- **Advocate** on behalf of nature.
- **Educate** the public on the importance of nature in all of our lives.

To combat the increasingly serious threats to our environment, and to promote a positive vision of environmental protection, we need your support.

For further information on Ontario Nature contact any Friends Of MacGregor Board member or go to www.ontarionature.org

As a Friend of Macgregor park

- you are supporting the park by helping to make improvements for all to enjoy
- you are a supporter for the protection of the natural environment and species
- you will receive a newsletter to keep you current on activities and programs
- you will receive a 15% discount on your purchase at the Huron

Fringe nature gift shop in the Visitor Centre

NEW BIRD BLIND

Fund raising has started to come in for this new project. Revenues from our 2010 raffles sales have been allotted to this project. The committee is hard at work to generate more funds to commence the build this fall of 2011. For further information or to make a donation please contact Norah Toth ,(519)389-6231 or look for pamphlets in the Visitor Centre this spring.

Recognizing Outstanding Ontario Summer Students

The McGuinty Government Supports Young Employees' Education

Forty students province-wide have been recognized as outstanding summer employees in Ontario Parks receiving educational bursaries. Locally, Christina Hopcroft, who worked at Inverhuron, received a bursary to assist her with her studies at University of Western Ontario.

The Ontario Parks Partners Bursary Awards recognize excellence and leadership in student employees and promote post-secondary education. Winners were nominated by park visitors as well as the students' peers and supervisors for their dedication, customer service, initiative and leadership.

In addition to supporting the students' education, the program promotes the province's natural and cultural heritage, and careers in the public service.



New comfort station in Nipissing campground.

Outside view of one of six new yurts in Algonquin Campground.



Inside view of cozy new yurt.

COMING EVENTS

May 27- June 5, 2011 - Huron Fringe Birding Festival
September 17th & 18th, 2011 - Wild for the Arts

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Stewart Nutt

Vice-President – John Cummings

Treasurer - Dave Cheer

Secretary – Frances Glencross

Projects - Mike Pickup
LaBlance

Huron Fringe Shop- Andrea & Michael

Fund Raising - Michael Rea

Director-at-Large - Peter Harrison

Newsletter - Linda Mason

Ontario Parks Liaison –Norah Toth

. The deadline for submissions for the Spring newsletter is May 8, 2011. e-mail address is masonfam@bmts.com Postal address is: Linda Mason, 529 Creekwood Drive, Southampton, N0H 2L0

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: _____

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.