



The Pitch Pine Post

St. Lawrence Islands National Park of Canada

Vol. 2, No. 1 Mallorytown Landing, Ontario Spring 2007

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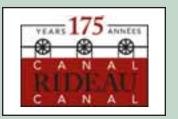
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St. Lawrence Islands National Park

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Phase 1 of trail project well underway

Trailblazing begins at Jones Creek property

Trails have been laid and construction will soon begin on approximately 20 kilometers of hiking trails through the St. Lawrence Islands National Park Jones Creek property. The trails, which will have a main entrance on the 1000 Island



Photo: Parks Canada

Trail coordinator Jennifer Harvey points towards Jones Creek from a viewpoint along the new trail system.

Parkway across from Brown's Bay and a secondary entrance on Highway 5, are designed in a variety of loops around Jones Creek and Mud Creek.

"The goal is to showcase the best of what there is to see in the properties," said Jennifer Harvey, coordinator of the trail project. "There are granite lookouts and ridges, great beaver ponds and wetlands, and hundred-year-old pines and oaks."

The trails cover a variety of terrain suitable for different abilities from moderate hiking around beaver meadows to more rigorous climbs over granite ridges.

Staff will begin trailblazing this spring under the direction of Trail Crew Supervisor, Kent Dowsley. The work will involve some brushing and pruning of trees so that they won't sag with

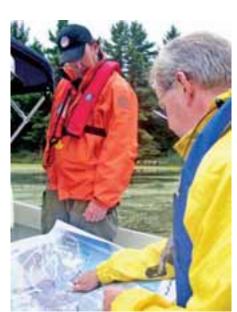


Photo: Parks Canada

Ecosystem data technician Greg Saunders (left) and Parks Planner Angus McLeod examine a map while exploring boat access to the park's new Jones Creek property.

winter snow and block the trail. Very few trees will need to be removed as the majority of the trail winds through mature trees. The trail crew will construct bridges and boardwalks

See Trails on page 6

Bringing our programs to life

Live animals and children's programs will again be a program highlight at the St. Lawrence Islands National Park Visitor Centre this summer. Fish, turtles, snakes, and insects all found temporary homes at the Mallorytown

Landing Visitor Centre in 2006 and were a hit with visitors of all ages from the 1000 Islands region and from as far away as Europe and Asia.

Feeding time on Tuesdays and Fridays at 2:00 pm is a rare chance to watch nature in action.

"Visitors love watching the snakes eat," said Jennifer Bond, Park Interpreter. "It's fascinating to see how the snake dislocates its jaw as it swallows its prey whole."





Photo: Parks Canada Malloytown resident Nicole Pressé, 16, puts together a bird nesting box at a workshop held at St. Lawrence Islands National Park's Mallorytown Landing Visitor Centre in March. For upcoming programs and workshops, see page 11.



Photo: Parks Canada

Five-year-old Kyle Hodge of Rockport puts on a show with turtle toys at the Visitor Centre's children's puppet theatre last summer.

The Superintendent Says...

By Gord Giffin, St. Lawrence Islands National Park Superintendent

The 103rd year of St. Lawrence Islands National Park serving the public will be a landmark year for our Park and for Parks Canada in Eastern Ontario. Our neighbour, the Rideau Canal, has been nominated to become the 14th World Heritage Site in Canada at the same time the canal and region celebrate the 175th year of canal operation. At St. Lawrence Islands National Park, we will start construction of a trail network on the mainland that will signal a commitment to providing new experiences for the public to enjoy in the years to come.

This year we will be undertaking public consultation of the Park Management Plan and your views on the future of the Park are needed and welcomed. If you wish to receive information on the new plan issues, please consider the invitation for input noted in the article to the right.

I hope we all have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Snowshoers find evidence of wildlife



Finding edible scat was one of the highlights for Hana Mallory, 8, during St. Lawrence Islands National Park's Winter Wildlife Snowshoe Hike in February. Interpreter Jenn Bond made rabbit scat out of tootsie rolls and shocked visitors by popping a very realistic-looking "rabbit raisin" into her mouth during the hike. Local families, some first-time visitors to the park, enjoyed a beautiful winter day while learning about the park's wildlife and how they survive our Canadian winters.

Setting a New Course

Park Management Plan Under Review

"The national

parks of Canada

are hereby dedi-

cated to the peo-

ple of Canada"

are invited to contribute to planning the future course of St. Lawrence Islands National Park of Canada. Over the past 100+ years, this well-loved island park has protected the river axis of the Frontenac

Arch, so vital to the biodiversity the 1000 Islands region. With the introduction of new mainland property, the park now increased opportunities responsibilities

and is reviewing its management plan. A Park Management Plan should reflect Parks Canada's commitment to the people of Canada, a commitment expressed in the dedication clause of the Canada National

"The national parks of Canada are hereby dedicated to the people of Canada for their benefit, education and enjoyment and subject to this Act and the regulations, and the parks shall be maintained and made use of so as to leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

You can share the challenges and issues facing the park over the next 10-15 years by reviewing and commenting on proposed recommenda-

This summer and fall, you tions. The Management Plan will report on how we will provide memorable opportunities for our visitors and regional residents, on how we will ensure that the special characteristics and natural qualities of the park are sustained for

> future generations, and on the vision for future.

We look forward to hearing from you. By June 29, the Park Management section of website our www.pc.gc.ca/sli will be in opera-

tion to provide access to the management planning issues newsletter and a series of fact sheets on the key issues. Telephone 613-923-5261 or email mpsli@pc.gc.ca to receive the information by mail.

Public meetings

Information sessions will be held so you can meet and talk with park managers. These sessions are tentatively scheduled for: August 15, 2007 from 1-4 pm and 7-9 pm at the Rockport Community Centre, Rockport ON and September 15, 2007 from 1-4 pm and 7-9 pm at the Arthur Child Heritage Centre, 125 Water Street, Gananoque, ON.

Looking Back...



Photo: Parks Canada

100 years ago

Central Grenadier's sandy beach has attracted swimmers since the 1000 Islands first became a tourist attraction in the late nineteenth century.



20 years ago

Although tent styles of have changed, camping has been a popular activity at St. Lawrence Islands National Park for decades. More than 65 campsites are available on twelve park islands.

Ticks and Lyme disease present in 1000 Islands region

Residents and visitors should take precautions when outdoors

Blacklegged ticks (*Ixodes* scapularis) and the bacteria that proper protection, the chances carries Lyme disease are much more widespread in eastern Ontario than expected.

Following confirmed cases of Lyme disease near Mallorytown last summer, the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District other areas of Ontario, includ-

Health Unit worked with veterinarians Gananoque to Prescott to retrieve and test ticks found on pets. Ticks as

away as Spencerville tested blacklegged tick, but can be positive for the Lyme disease bacterium.

"It's important for people to realize that no matter where you go in this region, the ticks are present," reported Teresa Clow, Public Health Inspector with the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit. "Ticks were even found on dogs that hadn't left urban areas."

She cautions that with of contracting Lyme disease are significantly reduced. "We want people to protect themselves," she explained, "but not stay away."

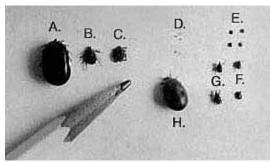
Lyme disease is present in

along "We want people north shore of Lake Erie, and in many parts of the northeastern United States. The disease can only be transmitted by the bite of an infected

successfully treated antibiotics. The challenge can be in diagnosing the disease.

To help with this, the health unit has been working with local doctors to raise awareness of the presence of Lyme disease, how to remove ticks, and where to send them for testing.

Close to 200 ticks were sub-



Size comparison: Wood Tick (A-C) A: Engorged female B: Female C: Male

Blacklegged Tick (D-H) D: Larvae E: Nymphs F: Males G: Females H: Engorged female Photo: www.lyme.org

mitted to the health unit last year from the public, doctors, and veterinarians, a major increase from the handful usually received. Ticks seen in previous years were generally dog ticks (also known as wood ticks), which cannot transmit Lyme disease. Almost every tick tested in 2006 was a blacklegged tick and a significant number tested positive for the Lyme disease bacterium.

"With the test results, people will know if they should be treated," said Clow. "This is important because the symptoms can be difficult to diagdisease."

The health unit will continue to provide the tick testing service this summer. If a tick is found, it should be properly removed immediately. health unit will arrange to have the tick identified by the public health lab and tested for the Lyme disease bacterium at the Winnipeg Laboratory Centre for Disease Control. Results are available within a couple of weeks.

"Testing ticks from pets is just as important," said Clow.

"The dogs are the ones wandering through the grass where the ticks are. Knowing where dogs are picking up ticks gives us more of a heads-up about where ticks are in the area."

"Other health units are beginning to wonder if they too have ticks and Lyme disease," said Clow. "It's not something anyone's looked for or tested before."

The first evidence of blacklegged ticks and Lyme disease in the region was noted by staff at St. Lawrence Islands National Park last summer.

"The park's priorities are nose after the first stages of the safety and awareness for park visitors, nearby landowners, regional residents, and park staff," explained Sophie Borcoman, St. Lawrence Islands National Park Communications Manager. "The park will continue in-park research to assess the level and range of risk, will take mitigation measures as necessary to reduce the likelihood of visitors, staff, and pets being exposed to ticks, and will continue to work with the local health unit to communicate personal safety measures and information."

Protect yourself

When you return from the outdoors, check your entire body thoroughly for ticks.

to protect them-

selves but not

stay away."

If you find an attached tick, remove it promptly using a pair of tweezers. Grasp the tick's head and mouth parts as close to the skin as possibly and pull it straight out gently, but firmly. Avoid twisting or squeezing the tick during removal. Treat the bite area with an antiseptic. Keep the tick in a small container. Contact your local health unit to arrange for identification of the tick and testing for the bacteria in the tick. You can also visit your doctor for help in removing the tick.

Watch for signs of infection following the bite.

Initial symptoms usually occur within one to three weeks after the bite, but can range from three days to one month. Contact your doctor immediately and let you doctor know when and where you were bitten by the tick if you experience any of the following symptoms:

- a red bulls-eye rash
- fever • headache
- fatigue
- muscle and joint pain
- a skin rash

Early symptoms of Lyme disease may subside or disappear; however, without treatment, the disease can progress and affect the heart, nervous system and the joints.

Additional information on ticks and Lyme disease can be found by calling Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit at 613-345-5685 or 1-800-660-5853, your local health unit, or by visiting the following websites:

The Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care's website at: http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/ pub/disease/lyme mn.html

The Public Health Agency of Canada's website at: http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/lyme_e.html

Protect Yourself Against Lyme Disease in Spring, Summer, and Fall



Drawing: National Institute of Health Tick photo on page 1: Jim Gathany, Public Health Image Library

Programs for all ages

Continued from page 1

The Visitor Centre's feature exhibit in 2007 is Our Feathered Friends from the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa. Children's costumes and new puppets will also be added to the popular Children's Corner, and movies will be shown regularly.

To provide visitors with more opportunities and expe-

riences, the Visitor Centre exhibits change weekly to feature topics from green gardening to parenting in the wild. Weekly children's programs attract kids of all ages for an interactive, hands-on session to learn more about the park and the weekly theme.

To learn more about 2007 programs and activities in the park, see page 11.



Mia Heuthorst brought grandchildren Benjamin (7), Thomas (10), and Andrew (12) to build bird nesting boxes at a St. Lawrence Islands National Park workshop in March. The park offers programs and workshops for all ages throughout the year. For more information about upcoming events, see page 10.

Survey Says...

Residents share their attitudes and values

curious about the motives behind a Parks Canada survey distributed randomly households in the 1000 Islands region earlier this year.

"We are conducting the attitudes and values survey to get an understanding of where resident interest is," explained Chris Bellemore, Outreach said. Coordinator at St. Lawrence Islands National Park. "This will help us to identify relevant and mutually beneficial programs that we can deliver in the community and in the park."

The second purpose of the survey is to measure how effective our programming has been to date. The survey included questions asking residents about publications they had received, programs they had attended, and signs they had noticed.

"Overall, we have received

A number of citizens were 1460 surveys back," explained Susan Wallwork, a Parks Canada employee at the Ontario Service Centre in Cornwall.

> This response rate is positive feedback according to Bellemore. "People living here have a strong attachment to the area and have an interest in having their voices heard," he

> The park aims to work with regional residents to help ensure a healthy and vibrant "By working community. together we can be confident that future generations will be able to enjoy the natural heritage that is here," Bellemore

> Results are public information and will be available in the summer. To request a copy of the results or for more information about the attitudes and values survey, call 613-923-5261.



A young visitor gets a close look at a threatened Blanding's turtle, one of the turtle species that will be studied at St. Lawrence Islands National Park this summer.

Stinkpot and Blanding's turtles will be focus of 2007 study

Turtle studies will continue at St. Lawrence Islands National Park in the 2007 summer season with a focus on stinkpot and Blanding's turtles.

Both stinkpot turtles (Sternotherus odoratus) and Blandturtles (Emydoidea blandingii) are listed as threatened in Canada and little is known about their population size and habitat requirements in the St. Lawrence River.

The turtle project this summer will continue tracking the nine stinkpot turtles that were



A newly hatched stinkpot turtle measures just over an inch in length. Stinkpot turtles, the smallest turtle in the 1000 *Islands region, are a threatened species.*

fitted with transmitters last summer. Researchers will also attach transmitters to more turtles and continue mark-recapture studies to get an accurate population size estimate. Similar work will also begin with Blanding's turtles.

The turtle studies conducted in 2005 and 2006 focused on tracking map turtles (Graptemys geographica) to determine their population size, habitat requirements, movement patterns, and home ranges. Researchers estimate approximately 600 map turtles live in the Grenadier-Tar Island area.

"Short-term monitoring demonstrates the current population status," explained Marie-Andrée Carrière, the University of Ottawa graduate student who conducted the map turtle study at St. Lawrence Islands National Park. "But it does not reveal any long-term trends in a population."

Mark-recapture work with map turtles will continue in 2007 so that park researchers can see whether the species is increasing, decreasing, remaining stable in the area.

"According to the federal Species At Risk Act, we are accountable for these turtles," said Jeff Leggo, St. Lawrence Islands National Park Resource Conservation Manager. "The challenge is that 'our' turtles spend an awful lot of time outside park boundaries and we have little control over risks outside the park."

The map turtles in Carrière's study had home ranges that averaged 2.5 km², though some individuals used an area of nearly 11 km².

The park will continue to communicate with residents and visitors about the importance of watching for turtles on the road and protecting turtle habitat. "It's not just the turtles that are officially listed at risk," said Leggo. "All of the turtles, including snapping turtles and painted turtles, are subject to the same stresses."

For more information about turtle studies at St. Lawrence Islands National Park, call 613-923-5261.

What's that sound?

Learn frog calls and help monitor wetland health

Ontario's thirteen frog and toad species begin their mating calls in late March and continue well into the summer. Citizens can listen to the croaks, peeps, and trills in local wetlands and help to monitor environmental health by submitting observations to



Photo: Parks Canada

A grey treefrog shows off its excellent climbing skills on the arm of a park interpreter.

the Canadian FrogWatch web-

The FrogWatch program aims to encourage community members of all ages to take an interest in the local environment and wetland health. The calls of Ontario's thirteen frogs and toads are distinct, relatively easy to learn, and can be found online at www.naturewatch.ca. Frequent observations are ideal, but even one submission adds to the overall data on frog populations across the country.

Because amphibians are very sensitive to environmental changes both on land and in the water, a change in frog or toad populations can be a sign that something is wrong in the surrounding habitat. their thin, permeable skin, frogs and toads are often referred to as "barometers" or



Park interpreter Jennifer Bond holds a bullfrog, one of several amphibians visitors can see upclose at the St. Lawrence Islands National Park Visitor Centre during the summer. Interpreters can also assist citizens who would like to learn more about the FrogWatch program.

environment.

The observations submitted by volunteers across the country also help to monitor global climate change because longterm data will be able show changes in the dates when different frog species begin to call in the spring.

To register or learn more FrogWatch, about visit www.naturewatch.ca or call 905-336-4414.

For residents interested in more in-depth monitoring, St. Lawrence Islands National Park's Citizen Science Initiative is a program designed to

indicators of the quality of the involve local residents in ecological monitoring on their own properties or public land. Parks Canada will provide equipment, material, training, and technical support for citizens or groups who are willing to make an annual time commitment of 1-8 hours to monitor the health of forests, wetlands, rivers and streams on their property. The park will also provide volunteers with a full report of data.

> To get involved or learn more about the Citizen Science Initiative at St. Lawrence Islands National Park, call 613-923-5261.



Bullfrog

Rana catesbeiana

- Size: 9-15 cm
- Green to brown
- NO paired, lighter-coloured ridges (dorsolateral) down back
- Males have a yellow throat and eardrums twice the size of their eyes
- Call is a deep, booming 'jug-o-rum' sound



Green Frog

Rana clamitans melanota

- Size: 6-9 cm
- · Green to dark brown with dark crossbands on legs
- Bright green band along upper lip
- HAS paired, lighter-coloured ridges (dorsolateral) down back
- Males have a yellow throat and eardrums twice the size of their eyes
- Call is a twang (sounds like the 'plunk' of a loose banjo string)



Northern Leopard Frog Rana pipiens

- Size: 5-10 cm
- Green or brown
- 2 or 3 rows of dark **round** spots outlined by white or yellow
- HAS paired, lighter-coloured ridges (dorsolateral) down back
- Call is a long, drawn-out snore (sounds like rubbing wet hands on a balloon)



Pickerel Frog Rana palustris

- Size: 4-7 cm
- Brown
- 2 rows of brown, squarish spots between a pair of lightercoloured ridges (dosolateral)
- Call is a short, low-pitched snore that does not carry well



American Toad Bufo americanus

- Size: 5-9 cm
- Light to dark brown, grey or sometimes reddish
- Dark spots on back encircle one or two large 'warts'
- Large kidney bean shaped (parotoid) glands on head do not touch bony ridges behind eyes
- Males have a dark throat
- Call is a high-pitched monotone trilling sound lasting 6 to 30 seconds

Illustrations: Charles Douglas, reproduced courtesy of the Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, Canada.

Who's Who Frog Clues



Wood Frog Rana sylvatica

- Size: 3.5-7 cm • Brown, tan, red or
- copper • Has a dark face mask (similar to a 'robber's mask')
- Call is a low, often rapid quack (sounds like a duck quacking)
- **Grey Treefrog** Hyla versicolor
 - Size: 3-5 cm Light green
 - to grey Darker,
 - irregularly-
- shaped marks on back • Large, expanded toe discs
- Underside of hind legs are bright yellow or orange
- Call is a short, high-pitched musical trill (almost sounds birdlike)

Midland (Western) Chorus Frog Pseudacris triseriata triseriata



- Size: 3-5 cm • Pale grey to dark brown
- Three dark, sometimes
- broken, lateral stripes down
- Light stripe along the upper lip Call is a regularly repeated 'creek' (sounds like running a thumb along the teeth of a

small plastic comb)



Spring Peeper Pseudacris crucifer crucifer

- Size: 2-3.5 cm
- on back
- short, high-pitched peeps, sometimes forming trills



- Brown to reddish
- Dark x-shaped mark
- Small toe discs
- Call is a series of

Citizens bid on eco-adventures at St. Lawrence Islands National Park

Several local residents will have the rare opportunity to see bird research up-close after placing winning bids on two eco-adventures offered by St. Lawrence Islands National Park. The winning citizens will accompany Park Warden Bud Andress and assist with the park's colonial waterbird nesting program or bald eagle monitoring program.

"The winners of the colonial waterbird nesting adventure will get to choose two outings related to our common tern project," said Andress. "The project involves various tasks from April to June such as site improvement, installing the grid to prevent gulls from landing on the island, monitoring and marking nests, and doing a census of downy chicks and eggs."

Jim and Julie Parker of Kingston were thrilled to win the tern eco-adventure. "We bid on this item because we enjoy bird watching and are interested in the conservation of nature."

Common tern populations along the St. Lawrence are limited by competition with other birds and predation by gulls. Installing a wire grid stops the less agile gulls from landing on the island, protecting the tern nests.

The eco-adventures were donated to Gananoque's 1000 Islands Playhouse fundraising dinner in Kingston last fall. Another spot on the eagle eco-adventure was auctioned at a February fundraiser for Save The River, a 1000 Islands environmental group. Local citi-

zens clearly recognized a unique opportunity to learn more about the rare wildlife of the 1000 islands; the winning bids, collected during silent and live auctions, totaled nearly nine hundred dollars.

Rockport resident Patricia Anderson d'Addario was more than willing to pay for the bald eagle eco-adventure; she has even declined an invitation to a wedding in England in order to participate this spring.

"I love this magical area we call the 1000 Islands," Anderson d'Addario said. "Nature abounds and I would like to be a part of its preservation. The work being done by the international St. Lawrence Bald Eagle Working Group and Parks Canada to save endangered species such as the bald eagle is to be commended."

The bald eagle banding and transmitter installation is something only a handful of people get to experience each year; generally only two Parks Canada staff, two Bird Studies Canada and Canadian Wildlife Service biologists, a research scientist, an expert climber, and the island owners are permitted to join the outing to the only bald eagle nest in the St. Lawrence River.

"I really look forward to observing the bald eagles up close," Anderson d'Addario said. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Julie Parker agreed. "We are certainly looking forward to the adventure," she said. "And we'll be sure to bring our cameras."



Photo: Parks Canada

The winners of the colonial waterbird eco-adventure will help park researchers monitor common tern chicks and eggs in the early summer.

Video will share Mohawk stories

"Voices of Akwesasne" project responds to visitor requests

Aboriginal culture, traditions, and stories ranked highly on a list of topics visitors are curious to learn more about.

"Eighty-two percent of visitors polled in the most recent Visitor Information Program survey were interested in learning more about Aboriginal culture in relation to this area," explained Paul Bruneau, Project Coodinator. "Through the 'Voices of Akwesasne' video, visitors will be able to learn about Aboriginal culture and connection to the land directly from the Mohawks of Akwesasne."

The video will consist of short vignettes of Akwesasne community members sharing their culture, stories, and traditional knowledge. The project's completion date is scheduled for the summer of 2008.

"Voices of Akwesasne" will be shared with visitors and regional residents at the Mallorytown Landing Visitor Centre and will be available to local schools. The Visitor Centre will also host a travelling exhibit from Akwesasne in July and August of 2008.

St. Lawrence Islands continues to build its relationship with the Mohawks of Akwesasne, a community that straddles the Canada-U.S. border near Cornwall. Events celebrating this relationship will take place at the end of June. Please call 613-923-5261 for more information.



Photo: Parks Canada

Frances Rennie examines the underside of a large shelf fungus during a hike along the trails of St. Lawrence Islands National Park's new Jones Creek property.

Trail loops protect sensitive areas

Continued from page 1

and mark the trail loops and

"We also have to do a great deal of landscape rehabilitation," said Harvey. "ATV use has created deep ruts that have altered the natural drainage pattern, created erosion, and compacted soil. Many of the ATV trails go through inappropriate areas such as wetlands and low areas."

In many cases, the ruts have also become habitat for frogs and other amphibians that are driven over by ATVs. Harvey reminds residents and visitors that ATV use is not permitted on park property. "The damage is extensive and the cost to replant the entire route is prohibitive. We will be

encouraging natural regeneration and doing some planting for aesthetics. We are using existing paths where appropriate, but most of the trails will be new paths."

The new trails are on higher ground that is well drained. "Some boardwalks will be required," explained Harvey, "but the goal is to keep the trail system as natural as possible."

Trail construction at Jones Creek, including a trailhead and parking area, should be complete in the fall of 2007. The second phase of the project will begin with the evaluation and layout of trails on the Landon Bay property.

For more information about the trail project, please call 613-923-5261.

Staff Profile

Ken Robinson, Interpretation Specialist

30 years of experience is captured in park database

After a three-decade career with Parks Canada, interpreter Ken Robinson is looking forward to retirement in May.

Robinson, who grew up

ories was getting to know all the lock stations along the canal," he said. "Like the park islands, each is a little different and there were always new



Throughout his 30-year career with Parks Canada, interpreter Ken Robinson has shared his enthusiasm for the natural world with thousands of park visitors. His knowledge of the area is being captured for future park staff in a database of information and stories about the park and its surroundings.

outside of Kingston, began things to explore." working as a summer interpreter at St. Lawrence Islands National Park in 1977. He spent the majority of his career with Parks Canada at the national park, but also worked as an area interpreter at the Rideau Canal National Historic Site.

"One of my favourite mem-

That sense of exploration has led to an in-depth knowledge of the history, plants, animals, and people of St. Lawrence Islands National Park and its surrounding area. Robinson has shared his knowledge and passion for the natural world with generations of park visitors. A constant source of information for other staff members, his presence will be missed when he retires.

In an effort to capture some of the knowledge he has gathered through his years at the park, Robinson has spent the last several months creating a database of details and stories about St. Lawrence Islands National Park's islands and mainland properties. The information collected in this database is being used to create self-guided trail pamphlets that will share stories and facts with park visitors and regional residents.

Share your stories

Do you have a unique story about one of the St. Lawrence Islands National Park islands or mainland properties?

Add your memories to the park database by sending them, along with your name and contact information, to ont-sli@pc.gc.ca or by regular

St. Lawrence Islands **National Park** 2 County Rd. 5, R.R.#3 Mallorytown, ON, K0E 1R0

Be your own guide

Discover the trails with a self-guided trail pamphlet

Visitors can now enjoy an interpretive hike at Lawrence Islands Park at any time of day. This summer, a pilot project will create selfguided trail pamphlets for three park trails, providing visitors with an interpretive experience even when park staff aren't present.

Trail guides will be available this summer at the sign kiosk on Mulcaster Island and at the trailheads at Mallorytown Landing and the Landon Bay Centre. Visitor comment forms will be provided to help with evaluation of this pilot project.

If the trail guides are a success, pamphlets will be created for trails across the park's island and mainland properties. The guides will change on a regular basis and will explore different themes such as human land use, First Nations traditional knowledge, ecology, and species at risk.

Personal interpretation programs with park staff will continue to be offered at the Mallorytown Landing Visitor Centre and various island locations throughout the summer months.

A message from Parks Canada's National Office

Parks are as much about people as the species they protect

mistakenly think that Parks recommendation from the gov-Canada is focused on making parks bigger, the goal is in fact Integrity Panel Report, which more accurately described as examined how well national making sure parks work better – in terms of how park lands and other properties throughout the region work together to provide habitat for species across the entire landscape.

Although expansion of boundaries is indeed one way to improve a park's ability to protect biodiversity, endless growth is not in the cards for St. Lawrence Islands National Park. Once described as Canada's smallest national park, the park is growing through other means - through collaboration with residents and landowners around the park. This network-

Although some people may ing is a working example of a ernment's 2001 Ecological parks are preserving the natural environment for future generations.

Many local residents feel very strongly about this landscape, and consider themselves good stewards. Parks Canada, which has no regulatory authority on private land, is looking to its neighbours to learn how we can work together to conserve the region and its unique features.

"We're interested in the protection and recovery of sensitive species," said Jeff Leggo, manager of resource conservation at St. Lawrence Islands National Park, "but we're also interested in the people who live and visit here and their needs and desires. It's not about working around people, but with them."

More than 100 years ago, the 1000 Islands region was recognized as a special place that should be protected for all Canadians. Over the years, Parks Canada has learned much more about how special this area is, ecologically. However, much of this region's uniqueness is tied to the stories of the people who live here as well. This place is your home what does it mean to you?

A park isn't about protecting a place from people; it is about protecting the human values that a place represents.

Visitors from far and wide may recognize the 1000 Islands as a beautiful spot, but it means more than that to the people who live here. A national park may provide one way to safeguard what makes a place special, but conservation of a place and what makes it special is not just a job for the government – it is perhaps primarily the job of local residents.

In this sense, parks are as much about people as they are about the species and habitats that they are designed to protect. The communities that surround parks are part of the ecosystem in which parks are embedded, regional and landowners share and value this landscape, just as Parks Canada does.

Rideau Canal National Historic Site of Canada

Celebrate with us its 175th anniversary

The Rideau Canal National Historic Site of Canada is much more than the world's longest skating rink. It's a 202km corridor of beautiful rivers, lakes and engineered canals linking the towns and cities of Eastern Ontario. From Ottawa to Kingston, the Rideau Canal passes through four distinct natural landscapes, each of which possesses its own particular scenic

The Řideau Canal has been a holiday retreat and summer playground for more than a century. Its natural beauty combined with the promise of excellent sports fishing, hunting and recreational boating stimulated the development of the tourism industry in the area, and by the end of the 19th century, hotels and private cottages made their appearance along the canal.

Declared by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada to be of national historic significance, the canal attracts thousands of visitors every year, anxious to learn about this remarkable engineering achievement and its role in the development of Canada.

Rideau 175

The year 2007 will mark a very special anniversary here in Eastern Ontario, the 175th anniversary of the completion of the Rideau Canal.

The Rideau Canal is part of a Canada-wide family of special places. Each national park, national historic site and canal, and marine conservation area in the Parks Canada family tells its own story. Historic canals trace the routes of exploration, defence, commerce and transportation which helped shape Canada as a young nation.

Built in turbulent times for national defence and commerce, the Rideau Canal is now a treasured national re-source. To commemorate this significant anniversary in 2007 Parks Canada is planning a very special celebration. All year long we will be celebrating the culture, heritage and uniqueness of the canal.

Many events and activities offered in the different communities along the Rideau corridor will be celebrating this important national historic site.

No matter when or where you arrive something exciting will be happening this year that will surely please you and your family.

History

The Rideau Canal was conceived in the wake of the War of 1812. It was to be a war-time supply route to Kingston and the Great Lakes, because the international boundary along the St. Lawrence River was vulnerable to attack. The canal provided a secure water route for troops and supplies from Montreal to reach the settlements of Upper Canada and the strategic naval dockyard at Kingston.

In 1826, England sent Lieutenant Colonel John By of the Royal Engineers to supervise canal construction. Thousands of Irish immigrants, French Canadians and Scottish stonemasons were among the labourers who helped push the canal through the rough bush,



Photo: Parks Canada

The historic Rideau Canal celebrates 175 years this year.

swamps and rocky wilderness of Eastern Ontario.

Completed in 1832, the Rideau Canal was one of the greatest engineering feats of the 19th century. The Tay Canal, an addition to the Rideau, was a private venture built by enterprising settlers of Perth. Connected by five wooden locks, it linked up with the Rideau Canal in 1834, ensuring Perth's participation in the commercial trade of Upper Canada. It was later replaced by a second Tay Canal built to model the original Rideau Canal.

The construction of the Rideau Canal proved to be a chief determinant in the settlement of its region. Without a water communication, that extensive tract of fertile country in the region would long remained unsettled.

Furthermore, it was clear that local trade would increase with the country's settlement and improvement. To facilitate that trade, it was essential to the agricultural interests that storehouses be erected near the banks of the canal to reduce the cost and inconvenience of land transport and provide temporary shelters for such items as

potash, wheat and flour.

As a rule the administrators of the canal were prepared to meet the peoples wishes as long as these facilities did not interfere with other aspects of navigation.

Another local, commercial interest involved the tapping of the surplus water power for mills. The construction of mills would stimulate local prosperity, increase trade and further enhance values. Mills at the various dams did not endanger the canal.

When the fear of war passed, the canal soon became

a major artery for regional commerce. This role continued for several decades but began to decline with the completion of the St. Lawrence canal system and the introduction of railthe ways.



In the late 19th century a new era of luxury steamboats began introducing passengers to the Rideau.

A World Heritage Site

The Great Wall of China, The Great Barrier Reef in Australia and the Taj Mahal in India are a few examples of sites that are considered to be of universal value by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The Rideau Canal could soon be part of this prestigious list.

A UNESCO World Heritage Site is either a natural or cultural place, of sufficient importance to be the responsibility of the international community as a whole.

State Parties who are part of UNESCO's convention pledge to care for World Heritage Sites in their territory and to avoid deliberate measures that could damage World Heritage Sites in other countries. As such, the World Heritage List serves as a tool for conservation.

In 2004 the Government of Canada created a Tentative List of eleven Canadian sites that had the potential to be declared a World Heritage Site.

As soon as this nomination was announced a team from Parks Canada and the Rideau Canal started working on a nomination dossier.

The team believes that the canal meets the criteria required by UNESCO.

World Heritage Site designation is the most significant global designation any site can achieve.

Once designated the Rideau Canal will join the thirteen amazing Canadian places that are presently inscribed to the World Heritage List and will be the only one in Ontario.

This will be a cause for great celebration along the Rideau corridor. World Heritage Site designation will only add to the reasons to commemorate the Rideau Canal in 2007.

Join us in the celebration!

To learn more about Rideau 175 visit us at www.rideau175.org.



Akwesasne's Voice

"Take only what you need"

St. Lawrence Islands National Park is working in close cooperation with the Mohawk of Akwesasne, a community of approximately 21,000 that straddles the boundary between Canada and the United States at Cornwall. The park recognizes the strong ties that the community of Akwesasne has to the natural world. Richard David, Assistant Director of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Department of the Environment and an "elder in denial," as he likes to call himself, writes about an age-old tradition of sustainability kept alive by the people living at Akwesasne today.

Shekon (greetings)

I was born into a wonderful family and spent my most of youth in Akwesasne. I had the privilege of spending time with my Grandmother; I lived with her for three years while I was going to school. I learned from her how to pick berries and tap trees for syrup. Not only did we tap maple trees but also tapped butternut trees and made syrup from that. I learned from my dad every time we went hunting, fishing, or gathering.

The common things that I

learned from both of these people were some of the obvious teachings that we First Nation People learned from our elders. You are never to tap the first maple tree you see, you're not to pick the first berry you see, you're not to keep the first fish you catch, you're not to shoot the first rabbit or deer you see. My dad told me that it would be a bad thing if I was the person to shoot the last deer, to catch the

became a part of our diet, that the process now called on us to do those things that are required to contribute to the healthy habitat of those creatures to ensure that they live healthy lives.

First Nation People have always lived like this and I never knew of any other way. Modern science has now given a name to a practice we've always done. They now call it "Sustainable Develop-

"Man did not weave the web of life – he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself."

- Chief Seattle, 1854

last fish, or eat the last berry and so on. Every time we went fishing, my dad would release the first fish, telling it to go tell his brothers and sisters that we are a kind and gentle people. He would explain that we will only catch what we need and use all that we catch. That each fish we caught would be treated with respect and that we would give thanks to our Creator for allowing us to gain our nourishment from his bounty. He went on to explain that as we gain energy from the flesh of those animals, birds, and fish that

ment". The Haudenosaunee (People of the Longhouse) have a wellestablished history of this practice. They lived in places in cycles. They would live in area for 40-50 years and then moved to a site 7day walk from where they were. While at any site they planted fruit trees, shagbark hickory, butternut, and black walnuts just to name a few. They made a gigantic circle of where they lived but would eventually return to a former site. There they would be blessed with the fruit of their labor that their great grandparents

planted for them. They would never let a site get over populated to a point that when the population reached, for arguments sake, reached 5,000 they would split and walk for seven days in opposite directions creating two villages with the capacity to sustain itself. The women were given the responsibility from the Creator to give and sustain life in the same manner that Mother Earth was given the responsibility for all life. It was their responsibility to maintain sustainable levels with the capacity to feed and clothe every-

Today, across Canada, it is the responsibility of every citizen to live sustainably. "Take only what you need and use all that you take" is a lesson for all of us as we use energy, food, paper, space, and other valuable resources in our daily life. Keep in mind these words attributed to Chief Seattle in 1854:

"This we know; the earth does not belong to man; man belongs to the earth. This we know. All things are connected like the blood which unites one family. All things are connected."

From the community...

Front of Yonge is recognized nationally as a "five bloom" township

By Matt Flikweert

The Communities In Bloom motto, "People, Plants and Pride," rightly applies to the Township of Front of Yonge. For the past four years, the Front of Yonge Communities in Bloom group has been awarded five blooms – the highest rating – in a national beautification competition.

The Front of Yonge Communities In Bloom group has been in existence since 2001. Since then, the group has grown to a twenty-member active volunteer committee that, together with hundreds of township residents, is committed to the well-being and development of townships, villages, cities, and municipalities.

Communities In Bloom is a

Canadian beautification program that provides information and education, and awards Bloom Ratings for achievement in floral displays, landscapes, turf, urban forestry, community involvement, heritage conservation, environmental awareness and tidiness. This volunteer-based, non-profit organization is committed to fostering civic pride, environmental responsibility and beautification through community participation and the challenge of national competition. Front of Yonge has been a finalist in the competition and is currently a 'Five Bloom' township, having been awarded five blooms for various projects over the past four years.

Front of Yonge Community In Bloom projects, over the years, have included participation in St. Lawrence Islands National Park's naturalization project at Mallorytown Landing, new public flower beds, a local heritage garden, an octagon-shaped community garden pavilion in the garden of Mallorytown's new Coach House, a gazebo checker station adjacent to the Township Office building, and stone flower planters at different locations in Mallorytown and along the 'Mallorytown Road of Remembrance'.

The group also participates in the annual Christmas parade, organizes garden seminars and local garden tours, holds plant sales and participates in 'Earth Day' clean ups. Since 1995, both expected and unexpected benefits have been

felt by communities across Canada participating in the Communities in Bloom program, including an increase in civic pride and community involvement, decreased vandalism, economic development, and increased property values and tourism.

The Front of Yonge Communities in Bloom group does most of its own fundraising and diligently works in the new public flower gardens, weeding, planting, watering, expanding and beautifying. The volunteers could never do it, of course, without the help and cooperation of the Township and local residents, who truly symbolize the people alluded to in the motto, "People, Plants and Pride."

History comes alive in theatre

Parks Canada Players present shows across eastern Ontario

Who was the Woman in Blue? Is there a pot of gold buried in the 1000 Islands? Did William Lyon Mackenzie really use a crystal ball? Find out all this and more as the Parks Canada Players bring history to life in Eastern Ontario. The Summer Heritage Theatre Series featuring the Parks Canada Players entertained thousands of people in 2006 and is planning an even bigger 2007. This professional acting troupe portrays over 50 different characters in five different plays from Ottawa to Kingston. Family entertainment at its best!

St. Lawrence Islands will be hosting a brand new show in 2007. Folklore meets fact with "A Park for the People" every Friday evening in July and August at various locations among the 1000 Islands. Call 613-923-5261 for information and show locations.

Enjoy the Ghostly "Spirits Rising" at various locations along the Rideau Canal. This collection of ghost stories, folklore and re-enactments celebrates 175 years of the Rideau Canal - you're never quite sure who might 'appear". Every Saturday July & August. Call 613-995-4110 for information and show locations.

The lives of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Rt. Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie King are the main focus with "Theatre on the Veranda" at Laurier House in Ottawa. With shows at 1 & 3 pm every Sunday afternoon in July and August, enjoy tea and pastries on the veranda of this historic former prime ministers residence and watch history come to life. Call 613-992-8142 for information and reservations.

The highly popular "Shadows of the Fort" Series will once again be performed at **Fort Wellington** in Prescott. This interactive candle-lit performance with muskets and music is a great night out for the entire family. Every Thursday evening at 8 pm during July & August. Call 613-925-2896 for information and reservations.

Bellevue House in Kingston will be offering "Sir John: A Life Less Ordinary" every Friday afternoon in July and August as part of their tea and Theatre Series. Set in the garden of this unique residence, the play focuses on the highs and lows of this often-controversial Prime Minister. Call 613-545-8666 for information and reservations.

Whether it's ghosts, legends, muskets or soldiers, there is something for everyone with the Summer Heritage Theatre Series. For more information on this theatrical series, contact John Muggleton at 613-995-4110 or email

john.muggleton@pc.gc.ca

Visitor survey will measure client satisfaction

Park staff will be asking for visitor opinions throughout July and August. St. Lawrence Islands National Park will be taking part in a standard Parks Canada Visitor Information Program (VIP) survey to learn what park visitors think about the park's services and facilities.

"The purpose of the survey is to rate the satisfaction of the client during his or her visit to the national park," explained Joanne Monteith, Visitor Services Officer at St. Lawrence Island National Park.

Surveys will be personally handed out to visitors by park The surveys can be returned to staff or left in selfregistration boxes at island and mainland locations.

Where possible, the park acts on results gathered from the survey. For example, the 2002 visitor survey included several comments on the state of the privies on Stovin and Camelot Islands. Those locations were among the first to have new composting toilets installed.

Visitors are encouraged to take a few minutes to complete the survey. "The results will help us to evaluate our operation of services and facilities and will help us plan future programming and projects," said Monteith.

Similar surveys are conducted every two to five years at national parks across the country.

Island steward program returns to help meet visitor experiences

In an effort to enhance visitor experiences on islands that are spread along 80 kilometers of river, St. Lawrence Islands National Park is resurrecting the island host program first introduced in 1999.

The program, now called the Island Steward Program, will involve four volunteer steward couples located throughout the islands to enhance the park's environmental stewardship and visitor services.

The stewards' main responsibilities will be to welcome visitors to the park islands, inform them of the services and facilities available, of park regulations and registration procedures, and of public safety information. Water-based visitors will overall love The stewards will also share information about the 1000 Islands

region and promote the islands' natural resources and cultural history. It is all about making visitors more aware of the way the park works and making their stay more enjoyable.

"Through volunteers, services will be more readily available to park visitors," explained Harry Szeto, Park Warden and island steward program coordinator. "The stewards will be able to answer visitors' questions about the area, make firewood accessible, and assist with registration procedures."

As part of helping others appreciate and enjoy their vacation experience in the 1000 Islands, stewards will share their knowledge about the island ecosystems and, by example, encourage others to practice environmental stew-

> ardship to protect the 1000 Islands area.

"This year's island stewards were chosen based on their interest in protecting the islands and assisting visitors," explained Szeto, "and for their be greeted by volunteer nature and the cultural history of the islands."



Photo: Parks Canada Island Stewards on park islands this summer.

Volunteers will be in daily contact with park staff. "The island stewards will also provide feedback to the park about visitor enjoyment and concerns," said Szeto. "It will help us to identify our limitations and enhance our capabilities to offer the best services to the visitors."

Park Regulations

We want all park users to have a memorable visitor experience. To protect the park's resources and your safety regulations are enforced. To ensure that your stay is enjoyable please read and observe the following:

Liquor: Possession and consumption is enforced in accordance with the Ontario Liquor Licence Act. The Act prohibits consuming or having open container of liquor on docks, shelters and public places.

Fees: Are payable immediately upon arrival for docking, mooring buoys, beaching, camping, boat launching and parking. Valid permits must be clearly visible to Park staff.

Pets: Must be leashed at all times. Stoop and scoop. No pets on

Facilities: Are on a first-come, first-served basis. Dock space may not be reserved. Detached boat trailers cannot be left in Landing parking lot. Be prepared to pack-out as garbage service is not available at most island locations.

Stay: Maximum lengths of stay for: island docking and mooring buoys is 3 consecutive nights, parking at Mallorytown Landing is 5 consecutive nights and island camping is 14 consecutive nights.

Quiet Hours: Are from 10pm to 8am. No operation of generators or boat engines are permitted during this time. Operation is not permitted at any time on "generator free" island areas.

Fires: Are allowed only in designated fire pits. Do not collect natural materials for firewood. Fireworks and explosives are not permitted.

Resources: Hunting is not permitted in the Park. Camping is restricted to designated sites. Do not disturb, feed or destroy wildlife, plants or cultural objects. Stay on marked trails.

VISITOR INFORMATION

Calendar of Events

Programs are held at the Mallorytown Landing Visitor Centre unless otherwise stated. Parking fees are in effect June 15 – September 3. Call 613-923-5261 for more information.

May 18 – Visitor Centre opens for 2007.

May 20 – Spring Wildflower Walk, 1-3 pm.

May 26-27 – Doors Open: Check out our new displays and discover all the wild and wonderful things happening this summer.

May 26 – Beginner Bird Identification Workshop. Pre-registration is required.

June 17 – Hill Island Hike, 1-3 pm. Meet in the Hill Island Skydeck parking lot.

Late June - Traditional plant use workshop and traditional games with the Mohawks of Akwesasne. Grenadier Island boat transportation will be pro-Pre-registration is vided. required. Call for more information.

July 1 – Canada Day – Activities and programs celebrating Canada from coast to coast. Join us for a piece of birthday cake! 11am-3pm.

July 6 – *A Park for the People* theatre presentation. Centennial Park, Smiths Falls, 7-8pm.

July 7 – Saturday Night at the Movies featuring Paddle to the Sea, 7pm.

July 13 – A Park for the People Theatre on the Island presentation, Grenadier Island, 8-9pm. Boat transportation from Mallorytown Landing, 7pm. Tickets for boat transportation must be purchased in advance.

July 14 – Parks Day – Take part in a treasure hunt and learn about geocaching.

July 14 – Saturday Night at the Movies featuring *FernGully*: The Last Rainforest, 7pm.

July 20 – A Park for the People theatre presentation. Lansdowne Fair, 6-7pm.

July 27 – A Park for the People theatre presentation. Delta Fair, 7-8pm.

July 28 – Saturday Night at the Movies featuring *Hoot*, 7pm.

August 3 – A Park for the People theatre presentation. Ivy Lea Campground, 8-9pm.



The Visitor Centre at Mallorytown Landing features aquariums and live exhibits, kids' activity area, discovery touch table, theatre, and for 2007 a travelling exhibit about birds and birdwatching. Facilities at Mallorytown Landing also include a playground, picnic area, historic gunboat exhibit, telephone, parking for vehicles and trailers, boat launch, overnight docking, and a 1.7 km walking trail (800m of which is bar-

August 4 – Reptile Day with special guests, 1-4pm.

August 4 – Saturday Night at the Movies featuring The Lorax, 7pm.

August 10 – A Park for the People theatre presentation. Rockport, 7-8pm.

August 25 - Naturalists Day - If you have a nature collection you want to share or something you want to identify, we'd love to see it!

August 25 – Saturday Night at the Movies featuring Great Canadian Parks: St. Lawrence Islands National Park, 7pm.

September 8 – Climate Change workshop, 1-4pm. Pre-registration is required.

September 26 – Research Round-Up Open House. Meet our researchers and find out what they have been monitoring all summer. 6-8pm.

September 29-30 & October 6-7 -Art Colony Tour, 11-4pm.

October 13– Art & Nature Workshop. Appreciation Absorb yourself in nature for a day...listen, learn, create. 10am-Pre-registration is 4pm. required.

October 20- Geocacheing Workshop. Join us for an introduction to GPS and the scavenger hunt that is geocacheing. 1-4 pm. Pre-registration is required.

Nature Day Camp

A Nature Day Camp for kids is offered at the Landon Bay Centre throughout the summer with sessions on a different environmental theme each week. For information visit www.landonbay.org or call (613)382-2719.

July and August

"A Park for the People" Stories of the people and landscape unfold in this dramatic portrayal of St. Lawrence Islands National Park's history. At various locations, most **Friday** evenings.

Saturday Night at the Movies The lights go down at 7:00 pm at the Mallorytown Landing Visitor Centre most Saturday evenings.

Nature Kids (ages 3 - 12) Wednesdays 10:30 am – noon and 1:30 – 3:00. Register for Nature Kids at least two days in advance.

Crafts – **Saturdays** 10:30 – noon and **Sundays** noon – 2:00 pm.

Feeding Times **Tuesdays** and **Fridays** at 2:00 pm at the Visitor Centre.

Guided Walks

Mallorytown Landing, Saturdays 2:00 pm and **Sundays** 10:30 am. Please call ahead to register.

Hours of Operation

SPRING 2007 - 11

Park Administration Office

8 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday, year round

Mallorytown Landing **Visitor Centre**

May 18 to June 10 and *September 7 to October 8*

• 10 am to 4 pm Friday to Sunday, Victoria Day (May 21) and Thanksgiving (October

June 15 to September 3

- 10 am to 4 pm Sunday to Thursday
- 10 am to 6 pm Friday and Saturday

Fees are payable during this period.

Islands

Services and facilities are maintained from Victoria Day to Thanksgiving (May 18th to October 8th). Fees are payable during this period. The park does not provide transportation to the islands.

2007 Fees

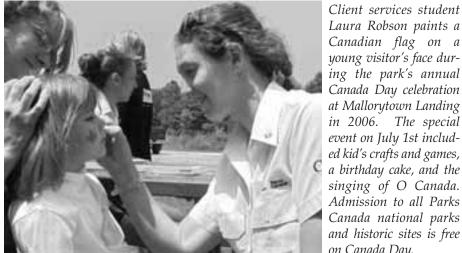
Parking

- Vehicle	\$ 6.90	
 Vehicle & trailer parking 		
with launching	19.80	
- Bus	19.80	
Boat launch and leave	9.90	
Camping	14.85	
Group camping - by resetion only (per person)	erva- 4.95	
Docking (per foot of vess length)	sel	

- Overnight 0.95/ft- Day (until 7pm) 0.45/ftBeaching/ramps 5.90 Mooring buoys 19.80 Firewood 6.90

Seasonal permits are available.

Self-registration payment areas and a list of fees are located at the Visitor Centre and on all islands.



ed kid's crafts and games, a birthday cake, and the singing of O Canada. Admission to all Parks Canada national parks and historic sites is free on Canada Day.

Client services student

Canadian flag on a

young visitor's face dur-

ing the park's annual

Canada Day celebration

at Mallorytown Landing

Photo: Parks Canada