



STRAIGHT TO THE POINT

N.E.W.S. from your Southernmost Friends

Volume 6 Number 2

June 2006

1981-2006
CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF DEDICATION TO
POINT PELEE NATIONAL PARK OF CANADA

Many thanks to a devoted editor...



Henrietta O'Neill has retired after five years as the *Straight to the Point* editor. She remains an integral part of the Friends family in her role as Supervisor/Driver for the Park/FoPP tip shuttle service.

This announcement comes with much regret, but with more gratitude than can be expressed for all the great editions she has produced.

Henrietta has spent many hours researching and connecting with individuals, issues and newsworthy information about our park and the greater park ecosystem community.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, and myself, I offer many, many thanks to Henrietta for her contributions of time and

valuable information, with hope that this will allow her some well deserved "spare time" to spend birding and enjoying the company of her family and friends.



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Edition written by Janice Sarkis, FoPP GM

Contributions from Dan Dufour, PPNP HP Interpretation Chad Jeffery, FoPP Board of Directors

We are 25 years old! Happy Anniversary to FoPP!

2006 marks the 25th anniversary of the Friends of Point Pelee.

In October of 1981, Lea Martel and a group of like-minded Point Pelee advocates worked together with the blessing of the Park Superintendent and Parks Canada to form Friends of Point Pelee.

That Friends group was one of the first to incorporate themselves and work

together with Parks Canada to offer a Not-for-Profit/Registered Charity working to support the mandate of the Park. As pioneers we have become a "model" for a myriad of the over 39 Friends groups formed in the Parks Canada family including National Historic sites, and National Marine Conservation Areas. Most recently we hosted the GM from The Friends of the Bruce District Parks Association for

an informal consultation for their new gift shop opening August 17, 2006.

The Friends have been successful for the past 25 years through the support of our membership, dedicated Board of Directors, Volunteers, FoPP staff and the cooperative partnership with Parks Canada and Point Pelee National Park staff. The Friends look forward to the next 25 years with the same enthusiasm.

Parks Canada Agency / Point Pelee National Park of Canada / Friends of Point Pelee... Why should we work together?



The Friends of Point Pelee's 2005 strategic planning sessions have noted the proceeding key statements and reiterated this sentiment in developing our most recent Mission Statement. The Board of Directors, in cultivating plans for the future, has become keenly aware of the changing visitation and global issues affecting our efforts. The board is working very hard to review our operations in order to continue to offer fiscally responsible quality services within the park and facilitate a memorable visitor experience for everyone. This review is being done along with key Point Pelee managers and will enable the Friends and Point Pelee, the fragile jewel we all love, to prosper.

“Point Pelee National Park protects a piece of the Carolinian forest and Great Lakes marsh ecosystems. Over the last century, these ecosystems and the plants and animals living in them, have almost disappeared in Canada. The park sits at the juncture of two major North American bird and insect migration routes, making it one of the best places to see hundreds of different species of migrating birds and insects like the Monarch butterfly. It's a peaceful retreat for people living in an increasingly urbanized region.”

Source- PPNP Visitor Guide 2006

Parks Canada Mandate

On behalf of the people of Canada, we protect and present nationally significant examples of Canada's natural and cultural heritage and foster public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment in ways that ensure their ecological and commemorative integrity for present and future generations.

Source- Parks Canada Agency www.pc.gc.ca/agen/

Over 150 attend the 2nd Annual Fundraising Dinner

Another May has come to pass as well as another successful event to support the Keep the Songs Alive fundraising campaign.

It was a packed house for the dinner this year, as skeptics and believers gathered to hear and see the evidence offered in a presentation by Bobby Harrison, nature photographer, entrepreneur, and associate professor/director of the art program at Oakwood College in Alabama. The crowd was intrigued and were able to ask many questions of our guest.

The evening began with a presentation and dedication from the Royal Astronomical Society for the efforts of Point Pelee implementing light abatement fixtures into the park. This initiative is very significant, because Point Pelee is an important migratory flyway and the stars are used in migratory bird navigation.

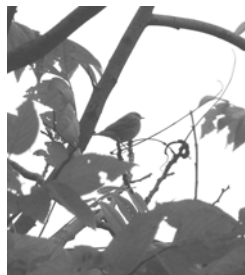
The Basket Raffle and Silent Auction were successful due to the support and contributions from many sponsors. An impromptu live auction was held for a

Parks Canada Discovery Pass. This item was won, then donated back by a supporter from Oklahoma.

The evening would not have been as profitable had it not been for the staff and volunteers who contributed many hours of planning, phone calls, running around, meetings, and managing many lists.

It was a laborious, yet wonderful effort that contributed over \$3000.00 to the renovation and upgrade of the Visitor Centre theatre.

Finally, I would like to thank all who attended for your continued support of Point Pelee National Park. See you next year....May 11, 2007.



Don't forget to

**YOU COULD BE GOING TO
THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS
ENTER THE
DREAM ADVENTURE
SWEEPSTAKES**

purchase for **“Dream Adventure”** Sweepstakes Tickets by calling the Nature Nook @ 519-326-6173 10am-5pm daily. You could win like R. B. from Harrow, ON. He was the lucky winner of the Bushnell Performance Optics, Natureview Series, Binoculars, Tripod and Scope in the early bird draw, held May 20, 2006. The Grand Prize draw is September 24, 2006 at 1:00pm EST.

\$10.00 each or 3 for \$25.00.

CASH DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.



Our ever changing POINT TO VIEW!

With the lack of ice cover and early spring storms, we had an occurrence on our point that caused quite a media event.

During one of those storms, the tip wave action and currents (which occur naturally) took away our "Dangerous Currents" sign that was just south of the viewing platform. This event happens occasionally, but the amazing thing is that this time, the sign ended up on a beach in Madison Ohio.

The park received an email from a gentleman who found it lying intact, with 4 x 4 posts still attached, along the

beach he walked daily. He wanted to return it to us. He felt this sign was important because it explained the dangerous currents and the compassionate reasons why it was put there in memory of Jeremy Bradt who drowned off the tip a few years ago. This sign was in addition to the large orange danger signs already in place with life rings attached.

Point Pelee contacted this gentleman and explained the history of this sign and thanked him for letting us know of his find. The Communication Coordinator for the park found this

story intriguing and sent it along to the local newspaper to see if it would be published. Well, the story made it as far as India Daily News and we had calls and emails from many parts of North America. It made for an exciting time and a great chance to tell our story (and get used to new nicknames like "the nub").

The tip is ever changing, swaying back and forth, becoming longer and shorter with each day. This phenomenon has been tracked and surveyed since the 1700's. The tip overall, is becoming shorter and narrower and is over 4km shorter today than it was when LaSalle first traveled though this area in the 1670's. The rate in which this happens is still in debate and studies are underway along the entire eastern shore, from Port Alma to Point Pelee.

This exciting sandspit is a great reason to visit the southernmost place on mainland Canada. It surely is a Point to View.



© Randy Mellow, 2006

"SWIRLING SEDIMENTS"

*TIP OF POINT PELEE
NATIONAL PARK*

*Aerial Shot taken April 19, 2006
by Randy Mellow*



TRIP PLANNER-SUMMER 2006



CANADA DAY- July 1, 2006

Celebrate this **free entrance** day at the park and join us at 12:15 pm at the Visitor Centre for a special presentation from Carolinian Canada about their *Signature Sites Plaque Program* and don't forget to have a piece of Birthday Cake on your way to enjoy the rest of the day.

PARK'S DAY- July 15, 2006

Celebrate Canada's National Parks by

visiting us for the day!

BUTTERFLY COUNT- August 12, 2006

Pre-register by August 1, 2006 to join the official all day count, or just join us for a butterfly workshop in the afternoon, look and learn about some of the more common species in the park.

Go to www.pc.gc.ca/pelee and click on *What's New, Upcoming Events* for more information on all Point Pelee's summer activities.

W. E. SAUNDERS BIRDING EVENT-September 9, 2006

Team up with The Friends and celebrate their 25th anniversary in combination with a fun birding/BBQ event for all to enjoy. Join a bevy of folks and see how many species you can count!

For more details and registration information...call FoPP @ 519-326-6173

N.E.W.S. from your Southernmost Friends

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WE'RE ON THE WEB

www.friendsofpointpelee.net

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VOLUNTEER JOB POSTING

NEWSLETTER EDITOR-

Do you have a connection to Point Pelee National Park of Canada? Do you have a flair for researching, investigating, writing, and editing? Do you have time to offer on a dedicated volunteer basis, to produce our quarterly newsletter, *Straight to the Point*?

The Friends of Point Pelee, Board of Directors is accepting applications for Newsletter Editor.

The successful applicant must be committed to meet production/ mailing deadlines for a period of at least one year (4 full editions). Please forward your application no later than August 15, 2006.

Attention:

Janice Sarkis, General Manager

1118 Point Pelee Drive, Leamington, ON N8H 3V4 or
email to fopp@mnsi.net

MISSION STATEMENT

The Friends of Point Pelee is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing resources and services to Point Pelee National Park of Canada in order to enhance the visitor experience and the natural and cultural uniqueness of the park.

YOU, **THE MEMBERS**, ARE A VITAL PART OF
IN ACCOMPLISHING THE MISSION

Thank you!

Membership Information

Individual	\$15/year
Family	\$20/year
Sponsor	\$50/year
Patron	\$500-lifetime- (includes \$350.00 tax receipt)

MAKES A GREAT GIFT!