



STRAIGHT TO THE POINT

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

Volume 6 Number 3

November 2006

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Year End Wrap Up

As the days get shorter and winds get cooler, the park is quiet and serene. It must mean...yes, it's year end for the Friends!

The Annual General Meeting will be held on January 17, 2007. You must be a member in good standing to vote. Membership renewal can take place that evening. Please try to attend. The time and location will be posted on the website soon.

I would like to thank the seasonal FoPP staff and the "always willing to lend a hand" Parks Canada staff for making it a great year.

The Friends staff, Board and volunteers participated in many events this year; Festival of Birds, Fundraising Dinner, Birder Breakfast and Lunch, Tomato Festival, Christmas Parade, Shoreline Cleanup, Annual Butterfly & Christmas Bird Counts to name a few. I look forward to 2007!

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*Edition written by
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Major, Marian Stranak
PPNP staff*

Kudos to volunteers on Pelee cleanup

**A letter to the editor-
Leamington Post, Wednesday,
October 18, 2006**

It was a beautifully clear day on September 21 when over 100 Leamington District and Cardinal Carter secondary students descended on Point Pelee National park to join staff from the park and the Friends of Point Pelee in the TD Canada Trust Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup.

Uniting with over 37,000 people and adding to the other 900 participating sites in Canada, the Point Pelee cleanup crew tackled 13 kilometers of the park's total 18 kilometers of shoreline.

The volunteers removed over 530 pound of garbage, including such items as fishing nets, tractor parts, balloons, and a whole array of plastic products.

Shoreline cleanups are an important part of cleaning our communities and maintaining healthy shoreline habitat for the plants and wildlife that thrive there.

Shoreline garbage is an international problem with debris traveling great distances across water only to end up degrading habitat far from its source.

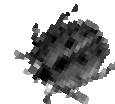
The event was capped off with a complimentary BBQ lunch and free family day passes to Point Pelee national Park handed out so that those who participated might return to enjoy the park they helped

to maintain.

A very large thank-you goes out to the students and community members that took the time to contribute to this important event.

Thanks to TD Friends of the Environment for providing bus funding, the Real Canadian Superstore and Coca-Cola Inc. for donations in kind, and the Friends of Point Pelee for their support and volunteer work.

Signed, Jason Wade, Senior Park Interpreter





POINT PELEE NATIONAL PARK EXPRESSION OF INTEREST REGARDING WIND POWER



November 8, 2006

Re: Wind Power Projects in the vicinity of Point Pelee National Park of Canada

There has been and continues to be considerable interest in the development of onshore and offshore wind power projects throughout Essex and Kent Counties. Federal and provincial levels of government have provided incentives and set targets for new electricity generating capacity from renewable energy sources such as wind.

Point Pelee National Park is one of Canada's oldest national parks (established in 1918) and the first Canadian national park set aside for its biological rather than aesthetic values. This being those biological values related to the natural phenomenon of migration. The national park, the Point Pelee peninsula landform on which the park is located along with the archipelago of islands in the western basin of Lake Erie are at the crossroads of the Atlantic and Mississippi migratory bird flyways and act as a funnel for migrating species. This important North American migratory corridor sees hundreds of thousands of migrating birds, bats, and insects of which several species are protected under the federal Species At Risk Act. In recognition of the park's critical

role, Point Pelee National Park has been designated as an Important Birding Area (IBA) by Bird Studies Canada and Nature Canada and is proposed as a Monarch Butterfly Reserve as designated by the Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management with the USA and Mexico. UNESCO has also designated Point Pelee National Park under the RAMSAR Convention program as a Wetland of International Significance.

The Parks Canada Agency supports the development of alternate renewable energy sources, where the installation will not have a negative impact on the ecological and commemorative integrity of protected heritage areas under its stewardship.

Data on the impacts of wind energy developments to ecosystem processes and species has been gathered in several countries. However, there are still many knowledge gaps, particularly with respect to turbine lighting, turbine blade design, and the most appropriate site selection criteria.

Under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, Parks Canada can act as an expert Federal Authority and participate in the scoping and review of environmental assessments. As such, Point Pelee National Park

will be involved in the environmental assessment processes for wind energy developments proposed in the region to ensure consideration of important ecological values relevant to the park. We recognize, however, that some proposals may not trigger a federal assessment.

I would appreciate if you could advise us of wind power projects proposed under your jurisdiction so that we may participate in environmental review processes. Information can be sent to me at marian.stranak@pc.gc.ca or to Dan Reive, Manager, Resource Conservation at dan.reive@pc.gc.ca

Thank you for your support and continued interest in working with us to maintain the ecological integrity of Point Pelee National Park and our region and to provide memorable experiences for our residents and visitors.

Sincerely,

Marian Stranak, Superintendent
Point Pelee National Park of Canada

The above letter was sent to the municipality CAO's, PPNP Advisory Committee and Friends of Point Pelee Board of Directors for info and reference.

Submitted with permission



GREATER PARK ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION



On Thursday October 26, 2006 volunteers and staff from the Friends of Point Pelee, Point Pelee National Park and Pelee Days Inn came together to plant trees and shrubs on the property of the Pelee Days Inn family resort.

The weather was perfect as we dug, planted, covered and mulched trees and bushes purchased from Wheatley Woods Nursery. All of the plants chosen for the project are native to the surrounding ecosystem in hopes of improving the already natural area to create more native habitat on the edge of Sturgeon Creek.

We hope to continue with this project in the Spring of 2007 to benefit the surrounding watershed, and the people who work and visit there.

A BIG THANK-YOU TO ALL OF THE 'FRIENDS' VOLUNTEERS WHO PUT IN THEIR TIME AND EFFORT. A JOB WELL DONE!



Above photo shows FoPP Board Member, Don Thomas assisting during the planting event. Don is always around to help when it comes to playing in the dirt! If you would like to participate in an event like this, call or email the Friends...

WATERLINE CONSTRUCTION AT POINT PELEE

While driving in the park recently, you may have noticed patches in the road, construction signs and giant rolls of 4" waterline at the Visitor Centre parking lot. These are all to complete the long awaited project that will connect the park and facilities to the municipal water system.

The project will alleviate the need for our 11 wells and the old and failing distribution system that services all the facilities along the 7 km of the

park, including the Cattail Café and Visitor Centre.

Our current water supplies are considered "surface water" sources as defined by the Parks Canada Drinking Water Quality Guidelines and thus are considered to be of elevated risk of contamination. The current systems demand a very laborious and expensive testing regime that ensures safe drinking water for visitors and staff.

The Tip restrooms will not be

Our turtle nest protection contractor found an Eastern Spiny Softshell hatchling in one of the marsh ponds at Point Pelee this summer.

It was a fluke discovery when she was releasing a blandings hatchling from one of our protected nests, she noticed the head of the soft-shell hatchling sticking up out of the water.

This was an exciting find as well as being measured, photographed and documented for the park.

This summer an expired adult was found washed up on the west side shoreline by a general works crew person.

SPINY SOFTSHELL HATCHLING



included as part of the project, but will be upgraded to fully meet the Drinking Water Guidelines for disinfection.

The waterline is being installed by directional boring which was chosen as the most responsible way to protect the environment and cultural resources within the park.

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

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WE'RE ON THE WEB

www.friendsofpointpelee.com



TRIP PLANNER
**Point Pelee is open 365 days a year
to enjoy and explore!**

Winter Park Hours 7am until 7 pm.

Visitor Centre & Nature Nook Gift Store are open every weekend 10am until 5 pm.

Dec 18	Christmas Bird Count
Dec 23 to Jan 6	Visitor Centre open daily 10am-5pm
March 12 to 16	March Break Program
April 20	Earth Day-Point Pelee National Park
April 22	Earth Day-Ojibway-Windsor
May 1 to 21	Festival of Birds
May 11	Fundraising Dinner-speaker Mark Peck-Royal Ontario Museum Ornithological Curator (North American Birding Atlas)
June 2	International Trails Day
July 1	Canada Day-Free Gate Admission
July 14	Parks Day
Aug 11	Annual Butterfly Count

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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.

DON'T FORGET TO

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

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

Membership Information

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

DONATIONS WELCOME.
THANK YOU!