

Frontenac Park Updates

North/South Otter Lake Cottage Association AGM (August 8th, 2021)

- **Senior Staff at Frontenac in 2021 are:**
Ben Chabot – Park Superintendent
Kyle Sweet – Senior Park Operations Technician
Kayla Clinton – Senior Park Operations Technician
Erica Kendrick – Senior Park Clerk
Rebecca Tigchelaar – Park Warden
Daryl Furber is now working at Ivanhoe in the Northeast Zone. Many of you will know Daryl from his numerous years of work at Frontenac. I would like to acknowledge Daryl's significant contribution to the park and its visitors throughout the years and wish him all the best at his new park. Thank-you Daryl.
- COVID-19 has created many challenges for the park in 2020 and 2021, however, staff have done our best to ensure the visitors experience still meets expectations. Although the park was closed at times throughout the pandemic, we were very happy to be able to provide an opportunity for our visitors to get outside and spend some time in nature. Visitation has been strong with the park seeing many new visitors.
- We were able to achieve a few significant improvements to what Frontenac has to offer in 2021. A few are listed below;
 - New wooden tent-platforms on many sites. These provide an elevated, level and dry surface for setting up your tent
 - Addition of (3) new campsites. These sites are single sites meaning you can now go camping without neighbors that you sometimes have in a cluster format. This will help the park further its Wilderness Threshold focus.
 - The addition of our last Historical Panel (Indigenous Peoples) is now complete. We now have a total of (8) interpretive panels throughout the park, each focusing on a different aspect of the park's cultural history
- **Volunteering:**
 - there has very little opportunity for volunteers during the pandemic, we will be sure to provide updates when we have a clearer idea of what future volunteer opportunities may include.
 - The Friends of Frontenac have remained active during this time, focusing on assisting with key visitor messaging; preparing for Skills courses should they be possible; regular planning/board meetings, etc.
 - The Friends of Frontenac are currently fundraising for an Outdoor Classroom/Pavilion that they hope to build in the spring of 2022. This facility will provide a good home base for our Classroom Without Walls program with Loughborough Public School; a venue to hold training/skills/special events; and a

covered shelter for our visitors to use and enjoy the outdoors. For more info or to make a donation please visit <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/the-friends-of-frontenac-park/> or the Park Office.

- Frontenac Challenge:
 - Registration for the annual Frontenac Challenge opened Aug 1, 2021. We are expecting another busy Challenge event this year. To register please visit <https://www.frontenacpark.ca/challenge-registration>. This years theme is “Fungi”

- Research:
 - Frontenac Park will be home to various different research and monitoring activities in 2021. Listed below are some our ongoing initiatives;
 - 1) Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas updates
 - 2) Frontenac Bird Studies/Bird Studies Canada surveys
 - 3) Broad Scale Monitoring Fisheries Assessment on Big Salmon Lake
 - 4) Zooplankton Studies on several lakes within the park
 - 5) Invasive species identification and management, focusing mainly on Dog Strangling Vine

- Winter at Frontenac
 - We hope to continue to improve our winter activities that are available to our visitors.
 - We are anticipating having our Visitor Center open on weekends starting early January
 - We will continue to maintain ski trail grooming and maintenance as best as possible in hopes that more visitors can enjoy that activity.
 - We will also be renting snowshoes again this winter, various sizes are available.