

Frontenac Provincial Park Updates

North/South Otter Lake Cottage Association AGM (Aug. 20, 2023)

1) Senior Park Staff in 2023 are:

Ben Chabot – Park Superintendent
Tim Pearson – Senior Operations Technician (Operations)
Erica Kendrick – Senior Operations Technician (Admin and Education)
Nikki Freeburn – Senior Park Clerk
Shawn McShane – Park Warden
Austin Cunningham – Park Warden

2) A new reservation and registration procedure was implemented at Frontenac in May 2023. This new system allows for backcountry camping reservations year-round and also allows for our camping visitors to register remotely and to go directly to their campsite.

Frontenac is also part of the *Advanced Daily Vehicle Permit* program. This will allow you to book a day-use parking spot up to 5 days in advance and also allow you to register remotely and go directly to the applicable parking area. Daily Vehicle Permits can still be obtained at the park office during office hours.

Please note that there is also a new procedure for our Seasonal Pass Holders. These visitors will have to either register online or by phone in advance (no fee) or stop at the park office to let us know you need a parking spot. Please ask the gate staff for clarification on this process if you are unsure. It is very important to park staff that our seasonal permit holders follow this procedure.

The old manual paper/cash self-registration procedure has now been discontinued. A cell phone booster has been installed in the self-serve kiosk for those with limited cell reception to register electronically at the park.

3) Visitation so far in 2023 has been strong but appears to be back to our pre-covid numbers. We are seeing more winter visitors who are enjoying our ski trail and other winter activities including camping. We are expecting a busy fall season for both camping and day-use visitors.

4) Significant Achievements in 2023:

- Construction of the Outdoor Classroom in partnership with the Friends of Frontenac
- Replaced the privy at c/s 10. All sites now have the new cedar style privy.
- Built new tent platforms on c/s 4a/b/d and will be building one at c/s 8c and 10c before the end of the summer.
- Replacement of (8) cribs on the Arab Gorge Boardwalk
- Updates to some interpretive panels in our Visitor Center

5) Some Research and Resource Management Initiatives

- *Revised land cover classification and phenology-based change detection of forest in Kingston, Ontario since 1973.* This research centers on the following two objectives: (1) To improve landcover classification using PRISMA hyperspectral satellite imagery in conjunction with tree identification surveys in Frontenac Park, and (2) To determine if springtime greening is happening earlier in the Park using a time-series of satellite imagery dating back to 1973.
- *Frontenac Bird Studies and Motus Tagging of Cerulean Warbler.* Identifying remaining critical demographic information gaps and developing a full annual cycle population model for Cerulean Warblers
- *Assessing the impact of forestry and climate change on Big Salmon Lake using paleoecological approaches.* Lake bed samples will be analyzed using radiometric dating and diatom taxonomy to determine if there were any historical changes in diatom assemblages that coincide with land-use changes in the area such as logging, and recent changes in climate. Using diatoms as a bioindicator will provide information on changes in the nutrient status of Big Salmon Lake since the early 1800's. Given that Big Salmon Lake has not been impacted by damming, this study will allow us to assess drivers of changes of nutrients in this region. This research will provide valuable insight into understanding this protected area in a landscape context that examines the impact of adjacent uses of the area on Big Salmon Lake, thereby filling gaps from long-term records.
- Park staff continue to try to manage invasive species within the park. Our main focus was on Dog Strangling Vine again in 2023. We did expand our efforts to include management of a small patch of Phragmites Grass as well.