Smoky Fire ceremony builds relationship with Mohawks

Traditional ceremony is landmark event for Parks Canada

In a unique cultural ceremony that has not occurred with the Government of Canada in more than a decade, Parks Canada and the Mohawks of Akwesasne celebrated a commitment to work together by taking part in a traditional Smoky Fire ceremony in August 2007. The ceremony brought together community leaders from both Akwesasne and the region surrounding St. Lawrence Islands National Park.

The ancient Smoky Fire tradition symbolizes a new working relationship between the Mohawks of Akwesasne, traditional keepers of the islands of the St. Lawrence, and Parks Canada, today’s caretakers of St. Lawrence Islands National Park.

After the traditional passing of messages by a runner, Richard David, Assistant Director of the Akwesasne Department of Environment, demonstrated the making of traditional black ash baskets during the public celebration on Grenadier Island following the Smoky Fire ceremony.

Success! Two new eagle nests found in 2007

For the first time in over seventy years, more than one pair of bald eagles have successfully nested on the upper St. Lawrence River. The two new nests are a positive sign for a provincially endangered bird that is still a rare sight in the 1000 Islands.

“These new nests show that we’re on the threshold of the bald eagles beginning a recovery here in the 1000 Islands,” says Bud Andress, Canadian Co-Chair of the St. Lawrence Bald Eagle Working Group, an international organization devoted to the recovery of the bald eagle in this region.

Dr. Peter Nye, an endangered species biologist with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, agrees. “This discovery is wonderful. We have long viewed the St. Lawrence River as prime bald eagle habitat in this region.”

New trail network at Jones Creek

More than three kilometers of trails and boardwalks will be officially open at St. Lawrence Islands National Park’s Jones Creek property this summer. Parking and access to the trail network will be available on the north side of 1000 Islands Parkway across from the Brown’s Bay picnic area.

Not everyone was happy to see the bald eagles nesting on a New York island. Ospreys and bald eagles traditionally share the same territory, which can lead to occasional disputes and aerial acrobatics. The smaller osprey (top) object to the eagles, which are known to occasionally “pirate” or steal fish from other birds.

Invasive species watch

Mallorytown Landing

Urban youth visit park

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Park Management

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The Superintendent Says...

By Jeff Leggo, St. Lawrence Islands National Park Acting Superintendent

The 2008 season begins for St. Lawrence Islands National Park with our fourth issue of the Pitch Pine Post. Building on our success in 2007, we are looking forward to another year of activities in the park and local communities. This issue of the Pitch Pine Post will provide you with insight into the park’s natural resource conservation program, mainland trail development, the results of the local resident and visitor surveys, and much more. We will soon be completing the park management plan and I would like to thank everyone who provided comments and suggestions during the public consultation last year. I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer.

Park management plan moving along

Early in the summer of 2007, St. Lawrence Islands National Park invited the public to contribute to a review in preparation for the release of a new park management plan. This important document will guide the park’s direction over the next ten to fifteen years. Many residents and visitors responded through letters and emails and in person at the public consultation open houses held in Rockport and Gananoque.

The park team has compiled those responses and prioritized the concerns and compliments. Based on what we heard from you, some changes have been made to our initial plans: certain ideas have fallen to the wayside, others will be phased in gradually and still other programs will be enhanced. A fact sheet outlining management plan decisions is available upon request.

Together we will ensure that St. Lawrence Islands National Park is a shining example of a special place with great island and mainland experiences for our visitors, that plays a meaningful community role in the 1000 Islands region and that acts as guardian of our incredible natural and cultural resources for all time.

Thank you to those who offered their thoughts and recommendations. The new management plan is expected to be released later this year.

Smoky Fire joins communities

Continued from page 1

Akwesasne, a community of approximately 21,000, straddles the boundary between Canada and the United States at Cornwall.

Parks Canada CEO Alan Latourelle acknowledged the significance of the ceremony by thanking the Mohawk representatives. “We want to work in the spirit of trust, friendship, and openness. Through your actions today, you’ve opened your hearts to Parks Canada and the community.”

A new relationship between the communities will lead to the integration of traditional knowledge within resource management, visitor experience, and educational programming in the national park. The ceremony follows several years of preliminary relationship building. “We at St. Lawrence Islands National Park are changed because of the work we’ve done with you in the past,” Park Superintendent Gord Giffin said to the Akwesasne community members. “We know we’re not perfect and we thank you for your support and guidance to help make us better. Together we can accomplish much.”

Several other community members, including local mayors, political leaders, not-for-profit groups, local residents and government organizations took the opportunity to voice their support for the relationship.

The formal Smoky Fire ceremony was followed by a day of celebrations open to the public. A free shuttle boat carried visitors to Grenadier Island for a walk highlighting traditional plants, lunch, and a chance to meet with and learn from Akwesasne community members.

The event marked the beginning of a relationship that has continued to grow between Parks Canada and the Mohawks of Akwesasne since last July. At a meeting with Parks Canada during the winter, Henry Lickers of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne remarked, “People will think of the Akwesasne in the past,” Park

Looking Back...

60 years ago

Residents near Rockport venture out to examine the wreckage of one of two Harvard Trainer aircraft that crashed in the 1000 Islands during World War II. A second plane, also being used to train pilots out of Trenton, Ontario, crashed on open water on the American side. Both pilots survived.

29 years ago

A game of tug-of-war involved pullers and spectators of all ages during the park’s 75th anniversary celebration in 1979. Local residents and visitors have been enjoying summer activities at Mallorytown Landing on park islands since before the park’s establishment in 1904.
**Video project captures Mohawk stories**

A new program called “Voices of Akwesasne” will open this summer to share stories of Mohawk culture with hundreds of visitors at St. Lawrence Islands National Park’s Mallorytown Landing Visitor Centre.

Through touch-screen technology, visitors will be able to choose from a variety of short video clips telling traditional and contemporary stories of the Mohawks of Akwesasne, a First Nations community that straddles the international border near Cornwall, Ontario.

Over five days of filming during the past winter, Paul Bruneau and Brad Bonaparte, Project Coordinators from St. Lawrence Islands National Park and Akwesasne respectively, spoke to ten community members and heard stories in both English and Mohawk about Akwesasne’s historical and modern connection to the 1000 Islands region.

“One theme that kept coming up was the construction of the seawall and the changes that it caused for the community of Akwesasne,” says Bruneau.

The vignettes will also include stories about turtles, the cycle of the universe, the making of black ash baskets, the St. Lawrence River, medicinal plants, and a variety of other subjects.

Visitors will have the option of listening to some of the stories in English, while others are told in the Mohawk language with French and English subtitles. The English stories will also have the option to be played with dubbed Mohawk, since one of the goals of the project is to contribute to efforts to preserve the Mohawk language.

Akwesasne will have a copy of the final product so that the community’s stories and Mohawk language can be shared with younger generations, a project to which community members and elders were eager to contribute.

“We had a great response from the community of Akwesasne,” says Bruneau. “Community members were happy to share stories and also to work towards friendships between the community and the park.”

“Voices of Akwesasne” will be open to visitors throughout the summer at the Mallorytown Landing Visitor Centre. This summer the Visitor Centre will also feature a special travelling exhibit from the Akwesasne Cultural Centre. For more information, please call 613-923-5261.

**Trail crews capture great shots**

Continued from page 1

Photos captured by the trail crew this past summer show that patient wildlife watchers will be rewarded when St. Lawrence Islands National Park’s Jones Creek trails are opened to hikers this summer.

One of the highlights for the trail crew was seeing a group of weasels run across the trail in front of them one day,” says Jennifer Harvey, trail project coordinator. “We’ve also seen black rat snakes, beaver, deer, and countless birds. There’s a lot of wildlife in the area.”

The park’s goal in establishing the trail network at Jones Creek is to allow people to enjoy some of the biodiversity and scenery of the 1000 Islands ecosystem. Much of the 16-kilometre trail network was brushed in 2007 and trailheads, parking areas, signage, and boardwalks are being added later this summer.

For more information about the new trails at Jones Creek, call 613-923-5261.

**Mallorytown Landing: An evolving landscape**

**Past - From wilderness to recreation**

Until the mid-1800s, Mallorytown Landing was part of an extensive wetland system that helped to filter water and provided spawning and nesting areas for fish and waterfowl.

By the late 1990s, the man-made beach had become a health hazard. The hard clay shoreline and lack of vegetation left no natural filtering system and E. coli contamination meant the beach was closed more often than it was open.

Community members have volunteered their time to help rehabilitate Mallorytown Landing by planting native trees, shrubs, and flowers.

**Future - A natural, meaningful visitor experience**

Over time, the trees and shrubs will grow and mature, providing shade and beauty around the parking lot and picnic areas.

To see more images and learn more about the changing landscape at Mallorytown Landing, stop by and visit! The Visitor Centre is open daily from mid-June to Labour Day. A public consultation meeting will be held in the coming months when the park will be seeking your input and ideas on further changes at Mallorytown Landing. Call 613-923-5261 for more information or if you would like to be personally notified of the public consultation meeting.
Survey Says…

Nearly 2000 residents and visitors shared their views with park management through two surveys conducted in 2007.

“The Visitor Information Program (VIP) survey, conducted on island parks and at Mallorytown Landing during the summer months, is part of a national effort to measure the quality of programs and services offered at all national parks, national marine conservation areas, and national historic sites. The survey results will help guide management and program planning over the next five years.

“We have listened to the comments received through the VIP survey,” says Visitor Services Officer Joanne Monteith. “This summer, additional staff will be on the islands to greet boaters and will be concentrating on regular maintenance of facilities such as docks, trails, picnic shelters, and tables.”

The Attitudes and Values survey was distributed to regional residents in the winter of 2007 to gain a better understanding of residents’ thoughts and perspectives regarding conservation in the Thousand Islands Area. The results of the survey will help direct outreach and education programs in the future. Because the park is so small and fragmented, regional resident support for conservation is essential if the park is to meet its federally mandated commitments to protect the local ecosystem and species at risk.

“The survey revealed that people in the area are very attached to the local environment,” says Chris Bellemore, St. Lawrence Islands National Park Outreach Coordinator. “People want to be involved in improving the quality of the environment, and would like some guidance to make the right decisions.”

Both surveys have a 95% confidence level, with a margin of error of ± 5.0%. Full survey results are available on request. Please call 613-923-5261 for more information.

Reptile education on the road

The larger-than-life snakes and turtles on the sides of vehicles at St. Lawrence Islands National Park are getting many second glances as they travel through eastern Ontario. The vehicles, used by staff travelling to meetings, programs, and within the park, are meant to increase public awareness of how dangerous roads are for species such as the Blanding’s turtle (Emydoidea blandingii) and eastern (black) rat snake (Elaphe obsoleta), both designated as threatened species in Canada.

“We would like people to understand that there are threatened species in their backyard and that they can make a difference in these species’ survival,” says Chris Bellemore, Outreach Coordinator at St. Lawrence Islands National Park. “Road mortality is a major issue affecting turtles and snakes on the 1000 Islands. We want to remind people to slow down and, when possible, help these animals cross the road.”

Many reptiles in search of nesting sites and food are forced to cross roads that fragment their habitat into smaller and smaller pieces. Studies have even shown that a small percentage of drivers deliberately aim for turtles and snakes on roads.

The awareness campaign designs, based on a similar program that educates the public about bears at Banff National Park in Alberta, include a large Blanding’s turtle or eastern (black) rat snake picture and the words: “This turtle [or snake] is rare. Drive with care.” Vehicles are equipped with fact sheets that staff can distribute if questioned by curious residents and visitors.

For more information about turtles, snakes, and road mortality, please call 613-923-5261.

Successful deer herd management to restore island ecosystem

A tobacco burning ceremony at six o’clock in the morning on January 12 marked the beginning of a joint effort by the Mohawks of Akwesasne and St. Lawrence Islands National Park to restore the forest ecosystem on Hill Island. Park staff and Mohawks worked together to reduce the island’s deer population after an in-depth study showed that white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus) were having a serious negative effect on Hill Island’s forests and the endangered pitch pine.

Before the herd management efforts early this year, the 4.25-km² island, 80% of which is owned by Parks Canada, supported a population of approximately 16 deer per square kilometre. Even populations as low as 8 deer per square kilometre can have a significant negative impact on a forest ecosystem.

From 2003-2007, not one tree seedling of any species was recorded in any of the forest health and regeneration plots monitored on Hill Island. The island is home to the largest Canadian stand of pitch pine, one of the country’s rarest trees. This pitch pine stand and the entire island forest ecosystem are threatened by the overpopulation of deer, who have devoured nearly all plants below the browse line, the height to which a deer can reach.

The park conducted a study in 2006 to measure the effect of the deer on the ecosystem. “The study found that a severe and sustained deer population reduction was required for plant recovery on the island,” reports Josh Van Wieren, an ecologist at St. Lawrence Islands National Park. “An organized herd reduction is the most effective and efficient method of doing this.”

The number of the majority of Hill Island residents and in partnership with the Mohawks of Akwesasne, the park began herd reduction measures early this year. In the following years, the island’s ecosystem will be closely monitored and herd management will continue if required.

The park interpreter Malin Deckendorff (right) points out an article about road mortality next to a park vehicle displaying a larger-than-life Blanding’s turtle as part of a public awareness campaign to help protect turtles and snakes on the region’s roads.

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For more information about turtles, snakes, and road mortality, please call 613-923-5261.
Boaters recommend switch to solar

The weight and noise of gas-powered generators convinced John and Joan Leech of Kingston to switch to solar power six years ago. They haven’t regretted the change.

“I would never go back to a generator,” says John Leech. “Never. I recommend to everyone that I know out there, if they have a boat that they can mount panels on, to go for it.”

“We ordered another panel and we’ve had no problems since then.”

He also recommends getting a 1500- or 2000-Watt inverter; citing the difficulty he had in finding a microwave to run on 1000 Watts. “I tested it out,” says Leech. “For boats without a location to mount permanent panels, there are also portable solar panels that can be placed on the dock, in the windows, or on the top of the boat. Solar panels are readily available at various boating, outdoor, and hardware stores. The initial cost for the Leeches’ solar panels was approximately $1400, plus the batteries and regulator. Costs vary depending on the size and type of panel. For more information about solar technology, call 613-923-5261.

Turtle recovery depends on community involvement and less roadkill

After three years of population and habitat studies on Blanding’s map, and stinkpot turtles in the 1000 Islands region, St. Lawrence Islands National Park’s turtle studies are expanding to include a road mortality study and work with local landowners.

“We are working in collaboration with the local landowners on a community approach to ensure healthy turtle populations,” explains Chris Bellemore, St. Lawrence Islands National Park Outreach Coordinator. During the winter, a community turtle recovery strategy was developed with the Leeds Stewardship Council and in consultation with local landowners and stakeholders. We have determined that a two-pronged approach is necessary to recover turtle populations,” says Bellemore. “The messages need to go to drivers on the 1000 Islands Parkway and to local landowners.”

The 1000 Islands Parkway is just one of many roads that cuts through significant wetlands, forests, and the Algonquin to Adirondack migration corridor, creating a major hazard for wildlife. A study in partnership with Carleton University will look at road mortality along the Parkway.

“The major mortality is in areas where the turtles go to nest and hibernate and what information such as where they go to nest and hibernate and what type of habitats they prefer,” says Marie-Andrée Carrière, a University of Ottawa researcher who studied the turtles for three years. “This information lets the park work to immediately protect those areas, giving these threatened species a better chance to survive in our river.”

This summer, researchers will continue to attach transmitters and track Blanding’s turtles to complete the description of Blanding’s turtle habitat needs and estimate the population size. Continued monitoring of map and stinkpot turtle populations will allow the park to see whether those populations are increasing, decreasing or stable.

For more information about turtle studies at St. Lawrence Islands National Park, please call 613-923-5261.
Volunteers log nearly 2,500 hours at national park in 2007

From island stewards to local landowners, volunteers donated nearly 2,500 hours of time to St. Lawrence Islands National Park in 2007. In organized park programs and as individual volunteers, many local residents and visitors gave freely of their time to help the park achieve its goals of protection, education, and visitor enjoyment.

The work of volunteer Anna Rochon of Mallorytown is an example of a win-win relationship for the park and the volunteer. Since 2004, Rochon and her support worker Valerie Wykes have been volunteering at the park’s administration office, assisting with tasks such as photocopying and laminating. Rochon’s work saves time for administration staff and at the same time gives her an opportunity to participate in the community, the main goal of the Brockville and District Association for Community Involvement.

Island steward program is a success

The nine island stewards who volunteered their time last summer made the initial year of the program a success, doing everything from greeting visitors to taking care of the beach at Central Grenadier.

“The volunteers are doing the job we dream we could do, but can’t because of capacity limitations,” says Harry Szeto, park warden and volunteer coordinator. “They greatly enhance the visitor experience.”

Island stewards put in an average of 15 hours of volunteer work each week, greeting visitors, sharing information about the park, local attractions, and issues such as ticks and Lyme disease, and distributing park newsletters. Longtime boater John McCuaig of Kingston spends most of the summer on his boat in the islands and saw the island steward program as an opportunity to do something to improve the park.

“I like to visit with the friendly staff and have made many new friends here,” Rochon says.

Citizen Science Initiative adds to ecosystem data

Nearly twenty people representing private property owners and local environmental organizations took part in the Citizen Science Initiative to establish forest and wetland monitoring plots outside of the park in 2007. Because St. Lawrence Islands National Park consists of many separate properties, the park can’t effectively monitor the region’s ecosystems without the help of local landowners.

“The overall goal is to give people an opportunity to learn more about their properties and to help us monitor the ecological integrity of the 1000 Islands ecosystem,” said Oliver Reichel, Project Coordinator in 2007. “Their data doesn’t replace ours, but augments it. It gives us a more realistic picture of the health of the entire ecosystem.”

Julia and Matt Wills, who have lived in the area for six years, decided to set up a forest monitoring plot on their property south of the 401 because it seemed like an environmentally conscious idea that didn’t cost anything except a bit of time.

Park staff provided training and equipment and assisted residents with plot set-up, a task that can be a bit overwhelming. “It took a lot of time to set up our forest plot,” admits Matt Wills. “A lot of our trees were fairly small, which meant there were a lot of measurements to do. However, now that we’ve done the initial survey, it will go faster.”

The Wills look forward to returning to their plot again in 2008 with their children, this time to check soil decomposition rates and tree growth. “It will be interesting to see what has actually happened in the past year,” says Matt Wills.

Other volunteer opportunities available

One-day volunteer activities are also offered each year at St. Lawrence Islands National Park. In 2007, local residents and volunteer groups such as Communities in Bloom and the Regional Community Brain Injury Services group assisted with the planting of native wildflowers, trees, and shrubs as part of the Mallorytown Landing rehabilitation project.

Local residents can also contribute to ecological monitoring by reporting sightings of rare species anywhere in the region through the Ministry of Natural Resources Natural Heritage Information Centre (http://nhic.mnr.gov.on.ca).

For more information about volunteer opportunities at St. Lawrence Islands National Park, please call 613-929-5261.

Reducing waste only makes cents!

What’s the best way to reduce garbage? Avoid making it in the first place! Here are a few ways to reduce waste for a greener camping experience:

• When faced with the choice, choose cans over bottles and reusable containers over both – and always recycle when possible.
• Buy bulk! It saves you money, reduces the amount of weight you have to carry and there’s little or no packaging to throw away.
• Buy meats and cheese for your picnic from the deli counter to cut down on plastic packaging waste and save money.
• Buy concentrated liquids such as juice or dish soap (phosphate-free!)
• Avoid single-serve items that are generally over-packaged and expensive.
• Remove packaging and recycle it at home before leaving for your trip and store food in reusable containers to save space and minimize garbage.
• Take propane tanks from portable grills back home with you to be refilled and recycled; don’t throw them in the garbage.
• Plan your meals carefully to minimize leftovers.

“Take nothing but photographs, leave nothing but footprints, kill nothing but time.”
St. Lawrence Islands National Park is working in close cooperation with the Mohawks of Akwesasne, a community of about 11,000 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, explains the Haudenosaunee Smoky Fire tradition:

In the past the Haudenosaunee (Mohawks are part of the Haudenosaunee) practiced “Smoky Fires” whenever they traveled to other Nations and/or Tribes. To begin, the Haudenosaunee would gather their leaders and/or Tribes. To begin, the Haudenosaunee Smoky Fire would take this information back to the leaders of his community. The leaders would convey their response back to the runner and he would return to where the Haudenosaunee had made their smoky fire. The runner would explain the response of the leaders of the host community. If that response were to invite the Haudenosaunee to the host community, the runner would escort them to the community, where they would share a meal with the Haudenosaunee. The messengers would then undo their bundled message sent by their leaders and deliver the message. In many cases the host community would paraphrase the message that was brought to them to ensure that they were of the same mind. The leaders of the host community would explain their response and a return bundle would be prepared. Sometimes the host would have a social dance to make sure that the runners felt that their efforts were welcome and that their message was understood. Usually at first light the next day, the runners would begin their journey home. Sometimes, one visit would be enough. Other times, the runners could be instructed to send messages back and the routine would be repeated until Communities/Nations were satisfied that they understood the message.

The Haudenosaunee would go to the edge of the territory of those that they wished to visit or have council with. They would stop there and build a fire and would add those things to the fire that would produce a lot of smoke until the host Nation or Tribe sent out a runner to see what the smoke meant.

Upon arrival of the runner, the Haudenosaunee would explain why they had come. Once the runner was satisfied that he understood the Haudenosaunee’s purpose of the visit, he would be prepared. Sometimes the host would have a social dance to make sure that the runners felt that their efforts were welcome and that their message was understood. Usually at first light the next day, the runners would begin their journey home. Sometimes, one visit would be enough. Other times, the runners could be instructed to send messages back and the routine would be repeated until Communities/Nations were satisfied that they understood the message.

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Did you know?

Akwesasne is known as “The Land Where the Partridge Drums” because the rapids on the St. Lawrence River sounded like the partridge or ruffed grouse beating its wings, especially in winter when the water pounded against the underside of the ice.

Landowner Profile

Students plant “Trees for Peace” for local landowners

For commuters Dan Potter and Patti Whyte, planting trees on their Front of Yonge property is one way of reducing their carbon footprint and returning their property to its natural state. They were delighted to learn about the Grenville Land Stewardship Council’s Trees for Peace Project and, last spring, had more than 1000 trees planted on their land through the program with the help of students from Lynn Public School.

“The Trees for Peace program was definitely a good experience,” Potter said. “Kids learn about the environment in school but this was a chance to get out and actually do something.”

Grade five student Kyle Darke agreed. “It’s fun,” he said. “Better than school!”

The field trip may have been fun, but the students also did a lot of work, planting 1010 spruce, oak, pine, and ash trees in an old pasture on the Potter-Whyte property.

Trees for Peace Program Coordinator Joanne Groulx spends the winter making presentations to local schoolchildren in grades four to eight, teaching about the importance of trees to the environment and water quality. In the spring, those students help with the planting of trees to restore wildlife habitat, build wildlife corridors, and reduce shoreline erosion. Last year, 350 students helped plant more than 10,000 trees in the region.

The Trees for Peace program provides trees and wildlife shrubs to rural landowners at a 50 percent cost subsidy, and also provides volunteers and students to help plant them. Professional staff are also available to meet residents on their property to perform shoreline assessments and make recommendations.

“Students and Whyte have been interested in restoring and protecting their property since they moved out of Brockville in 2003. They chose their property in part because of their wish to look after the provincially significant wetland that covers a portion of their land.

Because of that important marsh habitat, Potter and Whyte had to contend with regulations imposed by the Ministry of Natural Resources, the local conservation authority, and the municipality regarding any changes they make to their property, even those intended to help the environment.

Despite the frustrations, Potter said they will continue to work toward good stewardship of their land. “We’re thrilled to have it,” he said.

To learn more about the Trees for Peace Program as a landowner or teacher, please call 613-342-8528.

Akwesasne exhibit at Visitor Centre

Explore the culture of the Mohawks of Akwesasne with this summer’s special traveling exhibit “We Are From Akwesasne.” Created by the Akwesasne Cultural Center, the exhibit at the community, the exhibit is a “window into Mohawk culture,” incorporating language, stories, art, music, history, and beliefs. It is also a look at contemporary Mohawk society in Akwesasne. The exhibit will be on display from mid-May to Labour Day at the Mallorytown Landing Visitors Centre.

Self-guided trail brochures

Discover the secrets and wonders of St. Lawrence Islands National Park’s ecology and history with a self-guided trail brochure as you explore island and mainland trails this summer. English and French brochures are available at several locations. Let us know what you think about the brochures by leaving a comment in the self-registration box or contacting us at ont-sli@pc.gc.ca or 613-923-5261.
Eagles may be on the road to recovery in the 1000 islands

Continued from page 1

eagle habitat, and have anxiously awaited a nest on the U.S. side. Now, with three nests in fairly close proximity to the river pumping out young each year, we should see growth of the local population accelerate, which is great.

It is estimated that more than 200 bald eagle pairs nested from the Ottawa River to the lower Great Lakes in the early 1900s. The eagle population crashed in the 1970s as a result of pollution, human disturbance, and loss of habitat. That’s when people sat up and began to take notice. Pollution levels dropped through the 1980s and many birds of prey began a slow recovery.

“In 1980 there were zero reproducing pairs in southern Ontario [the region south of Algonquin Park, including eastern Ontario],” says Jody Allair, Biologist at Bird Studies Canada. “In 2006 we had thirty-four.”

The number of eagles wintering on the St. Lawrence River has also improved dramatically through the 1980s and 90s. “We’re now at the point where biologists estimate fifty to one hundred eagles now spend the winter along the upper St. Lawrence and eastern Lake Ontario,” reports Andress. Those eagles, however, left each spring to nest in northern Ontario, Quebec, and elsewhere. From 1937 to 1999, not a single pair stayed to nest in the 1000 Islands area of the St. Lawrence River.

“After monitoring the winter populations since the 1980s, there was great excitement at the first nesting pair in 1999,” says Andress. “That excitement was renewed when a second nest was found in the spring of 2007 and a third nest in the late summer.”

Owners of property on an American island spotted a pair of adult eagles rebuilding an old nest on the U.S. side. Andress reported it to the St. Lawrence Bald Eagle Working Group. The nest was monitored over the summer as the parents successfully raised one eaglet. The third nest, well hidden on a Canadian island, also appears to have produced a couple of eaglets.

Eagles often return to where they were raised once they reach maturity. Because fifteen eaglets have been raised since 1999 at the first nest (located on a Canadian island) and there are a few other nests in upper New York state, experts have been hoping for several years to find a new nest in the islands.

There is a good chance one of the adults in the new nests may be from the original Canadian island nest. “We do know that the new adult female at the American site is not banded,” says Nye. “We have banded nearly all the fledglings from the Canadian nest, so if it were one of those young, we should see those bands on these new adults. We hope to see if the male is banded at some point, and if so, if we can observe closely enough, we could tell where he is from.”

People are encouraged to enjoy the sight of the river eagles, but to do so at a respectful distance so as not to disturb the birds, especially near nests. With the help of landowners and conservation organizations, Bird Studies Canada is monitoring all bald eagles nesting in southern Ontario to gather data on nest productivity. To report eagle sightings, especially during the breeding season (March to mid-summer), contact your local stewardship council, Ministry of Natural Resources office, or Bird Studies Canada.

For more information about bald eagles in Ontario, visit the Bird Studies Canada website at www.birdscanada.org.

St. Lawrence eagles are “poster birds” for project

Spirit and Phyllis, two St. Lawrence bald eagles (Haliaeetus leucocephalus) banded and fitted with satellite transmitters in 2006, have spent the past two years exploring eastern North America from Labrador to West Virginia. Their flights have been very different from eagles banded in other parts of the province and have made brief returns to the point where biologists estimated fifty to one hundred eagles now spend the winter along the upper St. Lawrence and eastern Lake Ontario, “reports Andress. Those eagles, however, left each spring to nest in northern Ontario, Quebec, and elsewhere.

One possible reason could be pollution. “We’re finding that it’s possible our eagles aren’t living as long as eagles in other populations,” says Allair. “Of sixteen dead adult eagles found between 1991 and 2002, ten had extremely high levels of lead and mercury in their bodies.” Since 2002, more adults have been found with heavy metal contamination. “It’s quite alarming,” says Allair. Despite obvious pollution improvements since the era of DDT, there’s still something quite right.

The goal of the Destination Eagle project is to track seasonal dispersal of southern Ontario’s young bald eagles using backpack satellite transmitters that are designed to fall off just before the birds reach maturity at four to five years. “No one really knows where the young eagles go,” says Allair. “Through this project we hope to find out where they might be picking up contaminants.”

A third St. Lawrence eagle, "Mary," was fitted with a satellite transmitter in 2007 thanks to funding from an anonymous corporate sponsor to the St. Lawrence Bald Eagle Working Group. Mary headed towards James Bay shortly after learning to fly, but disappeared from the satellite tracking screen in September. Like many young eagles, she may not have survived her perilous first year, victim of an unknown fate.

Since 2004, nineteen Ontario eagles have been fitted with satellite transmitters. Roughly a third of those birds have been tracked for a year or more. This data is useful even if the bird is no longer being tracked. “The first year or two is the toughest for young birds to survive,” explains Allair. His team hopes to eventually track twenty southern Ontario birds for three to five years.

For more information and to see an up-to-date map of Spirit and Phyllis' travels, check the Eagle Tracker at www.birdscanada.org. The birds’ locations are updated every 3-5 days.

Photo: Bud Andress

Sandro D’addario (right) videos his wife Patricia Anderson with “Mary” the bald eagle, held by Jody Allair of Bird Studies Canada. The couple from Rockport were winners of an eagle banding eco-adventure in June 2007.

Photo: Ian Coristine/1000IslandsPhotoart.com

The lone eaglet from the second St. Lawrence nest waits patiently for its parents to return with food. Female bald eagles lay 1-3 eggs each year. This second successful nest on the St. Lawrence River, followed by third nest discovered late last summer, is an encouraging sign of recovery for the endangered raptor.

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Park Facilities: What’s happening
Completed in 2007
- Installation of composting toilets at Battersman’s Point and Beau Rivage Island
- Cleaning and painting of both Georgina Island picnic shelters and replacement of roothing on west shelter
- Repair of the concrete slab, ceiling and posts and painting of Beau Rivage Island south picnic shelter
- Cleaning and painting of both Stovin Island picnic shelters
- Cleaning and painting of interior of Aubrey south, Constance and Gordon centre picnic shelters
- Repair and chipping of all trails on Beau Rivage, Mermaid, McDonald and Aubrey Islands as well as west end of Georgina Island
- Removal of the old warden cabin on Red Horse Island

Eagle recovery work will continue after retirement
Park warden Bud Andress celebrates 37 years of service

Bud Andress’ work to help the eagles of the St. Lawrence River will continue after he retires from his post as Senior Park Warden at St. Lawrence Islands National Park this summer. In his thirty-seven years at the park, many of Andress’ projects have involved monitoring and managing bird populations, including bald eagles, ospreys, common terns, and double-crested cormorants.

In his retirement, he will continue to work with the Leeds County Stewardship Council and the St. Lawrence Bald Eagle Working Group (SLBEWG) on new nest platform projects. The platforms are designed to entice young eagles to establish nests along the upper St. Lawrence River and within the greater 1000 Islands watershed of Leeds County.

Andress was one of three people who initiated the osprey nest platform project that successfully brought the 1000 Islands osprey population from two pairs in 1992 to close to 100 pairs in 2007. A similar return of the bald eagle is expected to be much more gradual, but might be assisted through platform installation.

“If the habitat is available, and a few platforms are in place, bald eagles may repopulate the area slowly over time, both along the River and inland in Leeds County,” Andress explains.

Throughout his career, Andress has observed many changes to the Parks Canada organization and the park. His current work with the St. Lawrence bald eagle population is only one of the many projects to which he has devoted his time and his dedication to the project is obvious.

“If we can improve the bald eagle recovery here in eastern Ontario, perhaps, someday, we’ll see the eagles win back from endangered in southern Ontario,” says Andress.

Finding habitat for St. Lawrence eagles
Young eagles looking for a place to nest in the 1000 Islands region may soon have some prime real estate prepared just for them. The St. Lawrence Bald Eagle Working Group and the Leeds County Stewardship Council are building and installing artificial eagle nest platforms with the cooperation of local landowners in both Canada and the United States.

“Human habitation has virtually eliminated bald eagle habitat around most of the western portion of Lake Ontario in both Ontario and New York State,” says Andress, past co-chair of the SLBEWG. “Some potentially excellent habitat remains around the eastern Lake Ontario and the upper St. Lawrence River, but so far very few eagles are nesting here.”

Using GIS (geographic information system) mapping, the project began by looking for preferred bald eagle nest sites within the boundaries of the eastern Lake Ontario and the upper St. Lawrence River. Preferred habitat sites contain suitable forest cover (generally white pine) and are located near water and away from roads and towns.

The results suggest we can expect more eagle nests along the St. Lawrence, especially as more young are fledged in the area. “There appears to be ample suitable, now occupied, habitat available to them,” says Dr. Peter Nye, endangered species biologist with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Regardless of whether eagles eventually choose the artificial platforms as nesting sites or not, educating the public and raising awareness of the importance of protecting near-shore habitat for rare species like the bald eagle are priorities for the groups organizing the project.

Engineers assess dock safety
Park has concerns about large boats on small floating docks
Several broken dock hinges over the past summer led the operations manager to request an investigation and analysis of the park’s small, unanchored 16-foot floating docks by park operations engineers. Preliminary examinations have highlighted concerns with the strength of the dock hinges and the size and weight of the vessels tying up to the docks.

The average boat visiting the park has increased in size over the years, a trend that has resulted in competition for dock space on several islands in the middle of the summer. The bigger and higher boats are also more susceptible to being caught and pushed by the wind and current. That becomes a problem on the small finger floating docks, which are usually held in place by two hinges only designed to handle a certain amount of force.

Preliminary recommendations from the engineers are to limit the size of vessels to a maximum of 26 feet in length on unanchored 16-foot floats exposed to currents, wind and rafting together on several small floats should be banned altogether. The engineers have provided designs for stronger hinges and are presently looking at viable options for anchoring the floats. They are also looking at new dock designs and configurations for the future.

“Each dock has to be looked at individually,” says Robert Van Rumpt, park Operations Manager. “The dock’s safety depends on where it is located. In a sheltered bay, the docks are probably fine, but in a channel, exposed to currents and wind, the docks may not be safe for larger vessels, particularly in high winds or storm conditions.”

For more information, please call 613-923-5261.
Poison ivy

This plant can be found in many areas of the park such as Central Grenadier and Mallorytown Landing, usually along trails and in disturbed areas. Poison ivy can grow as low-lying ground cover, a vine or a small bush, and contact with the plant can result in a painful, itchy rash. Remember: “Leaves of three, let it be!”

Raccoons

Raccoons are opportunistic creatures when it comes to looking for food and obtaining it. They are often referred to as the “masked bandits” of the campground. With their agile front paws, raccoons are very adept at opening containers, packages, coolers and even zipppers. If fed, they can lose their fear of humans and become aggressive. Seven cases of raccoon rabies were reported on nearby Wellesley Island in early 2008. Keep your food and garbage secure, avoid interacting with raccoons, and report any unusual raccoon behavior to park staff.

Black-legged ticks

Though closely related to insects, ticks are actually a type of mite. Black-legged ticks have eight legs and are very small, ranging from 1-4 mm in length when unfed. Ticks are usually picked up when brushing against vegetation and can attach themselves to bare skin with their mouthparts. Black-legged ticks are present in southern and eastern Ontario and can transmit the potentially dangerous Lyme Disease. Check out the information below on how to protect yourself.

To stay safe:

- Stay on marked trails.
- When hiking, wear insect repellent containing DEET, long sleeves, pants and hiking boots. Tuck pants into your socks. Avoid wearing sandals or bare feet.
- When you return from a day outdoors, check your body thoroughly for ticks.
- Always keep your pets on a leash and on the trails.
- Never feed wildlife.
- Keep campsites, shelters and docks neat and clean.
- Keep food and all perfumed products (i.e., toothpaste, soap, etc.) in secure, animal-proof containers. Do not keep these items in a tent.

Summer theatre

St. Lawrence Islands National Park will be hosting the popular “Stepping Stones” every Friday evening in July and August. This lively and fast-paced show takes the audience on an historical and ecological journey through the park and islands. Have you ever wondered why the turtle crossed the road? Find out this summer with the Parks Canada Players’ summer heritage theatre. This travelling troupe of actors will also be performing shows at Fort Wellington (Prescott), Bellevue House (Kingston), Laurier House (Ottawa) and the Rideau Canal (Ottawa). For more information, visit www.parkplayers.com or call 613-923-5261.

Urban youth will experience park islands

Hundreds of students from Montreal, Ottawa, and Toronto will be visiting Georgia Island for a special program to experience a national park environment this spring. In cooperation with Gananoque Boat Line, the park is offering an interactive island hiking experience combined with a boat tour through the 1000 Islands. The main dock of Georgia Island will be reserved for the tour boat weekdays from 8 am to 4 pm from April to mid-June.

The changing face of Parks Canada

Like the federal public service in general, Parks Canada’s employees are, on average, older than other Canadian workers. This trend is beginning to result in large numbers of retirements across the country. St. Lawrence Islands National Park is feeling the effects of this national trend with our long-time employees this year and the additions of many new faces among the ranks.

Visitor Services Officer Joanne Monteith began her career nearly 30 years ago.

“When I started working in my early teens in the area tourist business, my goal was to have a smile on my face and deal with each person I met as if they were my first encounter,” she says. “Most often this approach did not let me down. I will be leaving the Park but will continue to work with the public into the next phase of my life.”

Monteith is not alone in planning to pursue similar work when she retires. Park Warden Bud Andress will also continue his bold eagle work when he finishes his employment with Parks Canada in June (see page 9 for more details). Rocky Point native Frank Fitzsimmons gathered a wealth of river knowledge in his 29 years of work as an island attendant at the park. Growing up on Grenadier Island, Fitzsimmons has a strong connection to the area and is looking forward to retirement in the 1000 Islands region.

Operations Manager Robert Van Rump is also looking forward to spending more time among the islands. With a background in architectural technology, Van Rump worked in restoration and operational services for nearly 36 years across the country from Halifox to Dawson City. Like many retiring Parks staff, Van Rump acknowledges that one of the best parts of his career was the opportunity to work in many different parts of Canada.

“There would be a lot fewer problems if everyone could travel across the country,” he says. “More people would realize what a wonderful, great country we have.”

For young Canadians just entering the workforce or experienced workers considering a career change, now is the time to think about work with the federal government. Watch for regular job postings at http://jobs-emplois.gc.ca. Full-time high school and post secondary students can apply for student positions through the Federal Student Work Experience Program (FSWEP) at http://jobs-emplois.gc.ca. To learn more about employment opportunities at St. Lawrence Islands National Park, please call 613-923-5261. Most staffing competitions run in the early spring.
Events & Programs

For more information or to pre-register for events, call 613-923-5261 or email ont-sii@pc.gc.ca. All events take place at the Mallorytown Landing Visitor Centre (1121-1000 Islands Parkway) unless otherwise stated. Parking fees ($6.80 per vehicle) apply at Mallorytown Landing from May 16 to September 1. Additional costs are noted if applicable. Seasonal permits are available.

June 14 – Hill Island Hike – Come and see how humans and the forces of nature have shaped Hill Island on this guided hike with a National Park Interpreter and a Park Scientist. Meet in the 1000 Islands SkyDeck parking lot on Hill Island. Bridge toll will be charged to access Hill Island. Pre-registration recommended. 1 pm – 3 pm.

Summer – Jones Creek Trail Network Grand Opening – Explore St. Lawrence Islands National Park’s new trail system at Jones Creek with Visitor Experience Project Coordinator Jennifer Harvey, who will give you a tour of the trails’ highlights and a look into the trail planning process. Please contact the park for date, time and location.

July & August – Nature Kids (ages 6 - 11), Wednesdays 10:30 - noon.

July & August – Feeding Times, Tuesdays and Fridays at 2 pm.

July 19 – Parks Day – Celebrating Reptiles! – Celebrate Canada’s Parks Day by learning about the wonderful world of turtles, snakes and lizards. Live animal demonstrations by Reptile Rainforest and Save the Snakes. 12 pm – 5 pm.

August 9 – Naturalists’ Day – Now it’s your turn to be an interpreter! Share your love of the environment with others by bringing your nature collections in. Don’t want to share? Come and learn from local naturalists instead. 11 am – 4 pm.

September 13 – Geocaching 101 – Geocaching is a fun game for the whole family. Join us for a one-hour workshop and scavenger hunt that will help you get started on this global activity. Pre-registration required. 12 pm – 4 pm.

September 20-21 & 27-28 – Art in the Park - Thousand Islands Fine Arts Association (TIFAA) art exhibit and competition.

October 4-5 & 11-12 – Fall Colours Studio Tour – The Mallorytown Landing Visitor Centre will be a stop for the Art Colony of the 1000 Islands’ Fall Colours Studio Tour.

October 4 – Explore the Biosphere Family Hike – Explore the wonders of the Frontenac Arch, a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve. This family-oriented hike will open your eyes to a truly unique environment. Pre-registration recommended. 1 pm – 4 pm.

October 18-19 – Nature Art Workshop – Join textile artist Margot Miller to create your very own nature art! Various techniques in textile art will be explored. Pre-registration required. Ages 14 and up. Material fee will apply. Please contact the park for times and details.

Hands-on Nature at the Visitor Centre

Visit the St. Lawrence Islands National Park Visitor Centre for a hands-on look at the natural and cultural history of the 1000 Islands region! Facilities and services at Mallorytown Landing include:

- Picnic shelters & picnic area
- 1.7-km walking trail (800-metres of which is barrier free)
- Visitor Centre with park interpreters, exhibits, live animals, and washrooms
- Playground
- Historic gunboat exhibit
- Telephone
- Parking for vehicles and trailers
- Boat launch
- Overnight docking

Would you like to learn more about programs and activities at St. Lawrence Islands National Park? Simply send us an email at sli-onti@pc.gc.ca and we will keep you up-to-date on all the park happenings.

St. Lawrence Islands - BY LAND

St. Lawrence Islands National Park headquarters and the Mallorytown Landing Visitor Centre are located on the 1000 Islands Parkway between Brockville and Gananoque, Ontario. To get onto the Parkway, travellers on Highway 401 can take exit 685 if coming from Brockville or exit 647 if coming from Gananoque. Exit 679 south will take you directly from the 401 to headquarters and the Visitor Centre. U.S. visitors need to travel north on Interstate 81 to the 1000 Islands Parkway, then turn east. The Landon Bay Centre is located at 302-1000 Islands Parkway, approximately 6 km east of Gananoque (6 km west of the 1000 Islands Bridge).

St. Lawrence Islands - BY WATER

There are more than 20 national park island locations in the St. Lawrence River between Kingston and Brockville. Unless otherwise stated, park islands have docks, privies, primitive campsites and delineated walking trails; most have shelters. Interpretive programs on a variety of natural and cultural heritage topics are offered throughout the summer at various island locations.

The park does not provide transportation to the islands. Water is only available at Central Grenadier and at Mallorytown Landing. Please plan ahead to minimize the solid waste you leave behind in the park.

Note: Fees are payable by self-registration immediately upon arrival.

Hours of Operation

Park Administration Office
2 County Road 5, Mallorytown, ON
8 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday, year round

Mallorytown Landing
Visitor Centre
1121-1000 Islands Parkway
June 15 to June 16
• 10 am to 4 pm Friday, week-ends and holidays.

July 16 to September 1
• 10 am to 4 pm Sunday to Fri- day
• 10 am to 6 pm Saturday

Fees are payable from May 16 to September 1 for all services and until October 13 for vehi- cle and trailer parking and launching.

Islands
Services and facilities are main- tained from Victoria Day to Thanksgiving (May 16 to Octo- ber 13). Fees are payable during this period. The park does not provide transportation to the islands.
Invasive Species Watch

Invasive species are those that have been introduced to regions outside of their normal range and pose a threat to the health of natural ecosystems, the economy and even human health. Invasive species are one of the top three stresses on ecological integrity at St. Lawrence Islands National Park. Be on the lookout for the following invasive species:

**Common Reed (Phragmites australis)**

Often growing to heights of 5 metres, the invasive European variety of the common reed can greatly reduce the biodiversity of a wetland. When introduced to a new area, it quickly dominates, creating large, homogenous expanses.

**Dog-strangling vine (Vincetoxicum hirundinaria)**

This aggressive Russian vine with purplish flowers can grow as much as 1-2 meters in one year, generally along roads, fence lines, and hillocks. Also known as pale swallowwort, the vine threatens rare plant species and is extremely difficult to get rid of.

**Garlic mustard (Alliaria petiolata)**

With small white flowers and a distinctive onion- or garlic-like odour, this exotic plant is rapidly expanding in moist areas along roadways and railways, and often invades mature, undisturbed forests. Garlic mustard leaves no room for native undergrowth, kills soil fungi, and prevents the growth of young trees.

**VHS (Viral hemorrhagic septicaemia)**

This infectious disease is caused by a virus first found in the Great Lakes in 2005. VHS outbreaks can affect large numbers of game and bait fish, especially in the spring. The deadly virus can be spread easily through the water or on infected fish.

"At least 185 invasive species are now found in the St. Lawrence River and Great Lakes. On average, one new species is found every 6.5 months."

- Jennifer J. Caddick, Executive Director, Save The River

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St. Lawrence Islands National Park

**Photo Contest**

Have you taken a fantastic picture of wildlife, plants or people at St. Lawrence Islands National Park? Enter your photo in St. Lawrence Islands National Park’s photo contest for your chance to win great prizes and see your photo published on the Park’s website and in next year’s Pitch Pine Post. Capture the spirit of the park’s new Jones Creek property, of the flora and fauna of the islands and mainland, or of visitors enjoying the park, and submit your entries by October 15, 2008. Full contest rules are below. For more information, please contact the park at 613-923-5261.

**Official Contest Rules**

1. **Categories:**
   i) People in the Park
   ii) Flora & Fauna
   iii) Exploring Jones Creek
   iv) Souvenir

2. **Deadline:** Contest opens at 9 am EDT on May 1, 2008. Entries must be received by 4 pm on October 15, 2008. St. Lawrence Islands National Park assumes no responsibility for any lost, late, damaged, destroyed or misdirected entries.

3. **Prizes:** Grand prize (1): Gift certificate towards solar panels for your boat or home ($150) OR gift certificate to Mountain Equipment Co-op (MEC) ($150); St. Lawrence Islands National Park (fever jacket and blanket set ($95)); Category winners (5): Gift certificate towards solar panels for your boat or home ($50) OR gift certificate to Mountain Equipment Co-op (MEC) ($50); Runners-up (5): St. Lawrence Islands National Park water bottle and tote bag ($12). Individuals can only win once.

4. **Eligibility:** Contest is open to all persons residing in Canada and the United States, except for employees, agents, and/or representatives of Parks Canada, contest judges, and any persons with whom these persons are residing or any member of their immediate family. Photos entered must not have been previously published. All photos must be taken on or from St. Lawrence Islands National Park.

5. **To enter:** Each entry must have a fully completed entry form attached to the photo. Entry forms are available online at www.pc.gc.ca, by calling 613-923-5261, or at the St. Lawrence Islands National Park office (2 County Road 5, Mallorytown, ON, K0E 1R0). Any identifiable individuals appearing in the photos must sign a photo release agreement available with the entry form. Entries may be sent by mail or delivered by hand to the St. Lawrence Islands National Park office (2 County Road 5, Mallorytown, ON, K0E 1R0) or submitted electronically to envimage@pc.gc.ca. No purchase or participation fee is necessary. If a category is not clearly defined, the judges reserve the right to assign one.

6. **Format:** Prints must be between 5” x 7” and 8” x 12” and unmounted. Prints may be colour or black and white. Digital images may be submitted as jpeg files via email or as jpeg files on CD. Digital images should be at least 1600 pixels wide and less than 4MB. Digital images may be cropped and colour corrections including black and white conversion are acceptable. The content may not be altered.

7. **Winner selection and notification:** Winners will be selected by a panel of judges at Mallo-
rytown Landing at St. Lawrence Islands National Park on October 20, 2008. The decision of the judges is final. Winners will be notified by 4 pm on October 31, 2008. Prizes must be claimed by March 31, 2009. The list of winners and winning entries will be published at www.pc.gc.ca/sli by May 2009.

8. **Other Rules:**
   i) By entering the contest, the contestant, or if the contestant is a minor, his/her parent, guardian or tutor, agrees to abide by the official contest rules.
   ii) Only winners will be contacted. Photos will be returned to contestants who provide a pre-paid return envelope for their entries.
   iii) All entries become the property of Parks Canada, the organizer. The organizer reserves the right, at its option, to publish any winner’s name, city of residence, photog-

   raph, statement regarding the contest, as well as any entry submitted, for advertising or educational purposes, without compensation, except where prohibited by law. Per-

   sonal information will be collected solely for the purposes of this contest and will not serve for any other purpose. By providing this information, the contestants consent to its use for the purposes indicated above.
   iv) The contestants and/or the winners assume full responsibility for any damage or

   damage claim caused by entering this contest.
   v) The prize(s) may not be transferred, substituted or exchanged for cash or any other

   thing. The context organizer reserves the right to change the prize at its sole discretion for a prize of equal or greater value.
   vi) The context organizer reserves the right, at the complete discretion, to cancel or modi-

   fy the contest in the event that, in the opinion of the contest organizer, the holding of the

   contest would be prevented for one reason or another, including a technical failure or

   breakdown, an unauthorized intervention, fraud or any other cause beyond the control of the contest organizer which would compromise the management, security, impartiality, integrity or smooth running of this contest.
   v) This contest is subject to all applicable laws.

   vi) This contest is null and void where prohibited by law. Any dispute regarding the

   organizing or conduct of this contest may be submitted to the organizer St. Lawrence Islands National Park, at 2 County Road 5, RR9, Mallorytown, ON K0E 1R0.

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Interpreters including Amanda Davison (above) shared stories and mesages of St. Lawrence Islands National Park with more than 2300 boaters and campers on park islands in 2007. With receiving prop talks, movie nights, and creating programs, visi-

tors of all ages learned more about the plants, animals, history, and ecology of the 1000 Islands region. Is there a subject you would like to learn more about? Let us know by filling out a comment form and depositing it in a payment box.