Developing New Habitat

These days when walking at the south end of Lemoine Point, you will notice a new and unusual structure in the large meadow there. It looks somewhat like the top part of a barn, and that’s appropriate because it provides a home for Barn Swallows, a species that prefers building its nests in such man-made structures.

The project started when Kingston Airport closed two hangars that housed Barn Swallows, and the need for an alternative led the Friends, CRCA and Kingston Field Naturalists to come together to plan and fund a new nesting structure. Together with the Airport and the Ministry of Natural Resources, they decided to build a structure such as in the adjoining picture and to locate it at Lemoine Point, in the southern-most meadow.

It will provide good habitat for Barn Swallows in this area to raise their young and to feed on the many flying insects there. They are medium-sized birds that feed while on the wing and are easily recognizable by their long forked tails and pointed wings that enable their fast flight and swooping aerobic maneuvers while hunting prey. They’re interesting to watch, and there will be interpretative signage midway along the trails both north and south of that meadow.

The project is particularly worthwhile because Barn Swallows are threatened and are officially a species at risk in Ontario and Canada e.g. due to climate change and habitat loss.

The structure will be ready for the start of the 2018 nesting season.

Waterfront Trail Closure

Walking at Lemoine Point has been limited since early May due to the closure of all of the waterfront trail that is low-lying, i.e. north of the forested section. It was severely damaged by the high level of Lake Ontario this year plus wind and wave action that flooded the entire area, eroded the shoreline, and demolished much of the stone and gravel base of the trail, as well as depositing large amounts of debris on it.

At this point, the CRCA considers it unlikely that any significant cleanup and repair can happen this year, and certainly not until a lower water level allows assessment of the damage and the operation of heavy equipment.
**Membership**

Enclosed is your annual membership renewal form for 2018.

It reflects several changes in membership approved at last year’s AGM. Membership is now by person rather than by family, and is $20 per year, plus an option of $10 per year for one additional household member also wishing to join.

We greatly appreciate your membership as well as your donations that make our programs and efforts possible. Thank you!

We would like to encourage new people to become members of the Friends, including the many people who regularly use Lemoine Point but are not members.

If you know such people, consider urging them to join us … perhaps remind them that membership means financial and public support for our cause to conserve and enhance Lemoine Point.

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**VOLUNTEER HELP WANTED**

The Friends is seeking Board Members to join our team to participate in planning & coordinating our activities.

Contact president John Diemer (diemer@sympatico.ca) or past president Peter Butler (phbutler@sympatico.ca).

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**Our Website**

Remember that our website is a great place to go for information about the Friends. The address is in the box on the right, or simply google “Friends of Lemoine”.

It has info on our objectives, activities, membership details, and contact points, as well as copies of our annual report and previous newsletters.

It’s also a good place to steer potential new members.

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**2017 Board of Directors**

John Diemer, President  
Peter Butler, Past President  
Jane Murphy, Vice-President  
Ron Bettney, Treasurer  
Millie Belyea  
Paul Marriott  
Elizabeth Tata

**Contact**

Mailing address: Friends of Lemoine Point  
c/o Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority  
P.O. Box 160, Glenburnie, ON   K0H 1S0  
Phone messages received at: 546-4228 Ext. 306  
E-mail: lemoine@crca.ca  
WebSite: crca.ca/friends-of-lemoine-point
**Buckthorn**

One of the serious invasive plant issues facing Lemoine Point is what to do about Buckthorn. It’s the very prolific shrub or small tree that spreads aggressively and displaces our native forest plants to form dense monoculture thickets along trails and the edge of woods. Moreover, once established, it’s very difficult to eradicate, as it re-sprouts vigorously when the tree/shrub is cut down.

The Friends has for some years undertaken various activities to try to help control it, without success, and is now limited in doing so now that it’s realized that the use of power equipment and herbicide is required.

We are encouraging and working with the CRCA to develop a long-term plan to treat and manage Buckthorn at the Point, and have offered to help in any way that we can, though aware that the CRCA is facing a number of other significant invasive plant concerns as well as the limited funding available to address those.

We haven’t given up on this, so stay tuned.

**Phragmites**

Phragmites is a distinct invasive plant that you can readily see in our area ... it’s a very tall (up to 15 feet) reed-like grass that forms dense stands along the edges of wetlands, ditches and roads. Deceptively beautiful with its feathery seed heads swaying in the breeze, it’s actually a serious threat to diversity ... it easily outcompetes and displaces native plants and develops into large monoculture stands that exclude native wildlife; it’s also very difficult to eradicate, and only by spraying with herbicide. A real problem.

Some of you may think that you have seen it at Lemoine, just south of the grass trail that leads from the main service road (four-way junction) down to the waterfront ... so that you may have been concerned about its impact. However, fortunately, that is not the same plant ... rather than being the invasive version, it’s the closely related native Phragmites, as identified and confirmed by David McMurray, the Friends’ biodiversity lead ... and that Phragmites grows in less dense stands and does not threaten other species or degrade habitat quality.

Thus we do not have to be concerned about it like we are with the several invasive plant species affecting Lemoine Point.
Friends of Lemoine Point

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, November 15, 7:30 pm
Ongwanada Resource Centre, 191 Portsmouth Ave

Annual Business Meeting
&
Q and A
with CRCA staff
on Current Lemoine Issues

Everyone Welcome!

Fully Accessible

At this year’s Volunteer Appreciation BBQ