

Superintendent's Message

Whether you're visiting Frontenac or simply reading about it, this tabloid contains a wealth of information about the park. Coming for the day or staying overnight? Frontenac has lots to offer all year round but remember it is strictly a backcountry park so come prepared.

Frontenac welcomes approximately 29,000 visitors a year, many from countries other than Canada. One of the challenges we face with so many people visiting the backcountry is keeping the Park as beautiful tomorrow as it is today. In order to preserve the ecological integrity of the Park, each visitor needs to do their part to lessen his/her impact on the environment. This includes refraining from stripping birch trees for bark, not cutting live trees, packing out what you pack in and keeping pets leashed. I encourage you to think about your camping practices and strive to have a "zero" impact during your visit. If you have any questions, please ask park staff.

Each year we endeavour to complete some trail improvement projects. Last year, four bridge sections were rebuilt and this year we will be rebuilding two major sections in the north end of the Park, one as a result of a beaver dam failure.

At some point this year, I anticipate that we will be holding public consultation on our preliminary park management plan which will guide park activities for the next 20 years once it is approved. For more information, please visit the website http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/fron_planning.html

As always, I welcome your comments either in person or simply write them on the back of your camping permit. No matter what season you venture to our Park, I hope that you enjoy all that Frontenac has to offer. Have a safe and enjoyable visit!

Sincerely,

Peter Dawson
Park Superintendent

Please Report Turtle and Black Ratsnake

Snake Sightings

SINCE 2004 WE'VE received 546 snake sightings from park visitors as they explore the park. We're pretty certain that most of these sightings were actually Black Ratsnakes, based on descriptions of where the snake was seen, what it was doing, digital photos, and what it looked like. But of course, photos are the best way for park biologists to know if the snake you saw is actually a Black Ratsnake, so try to snap a picture if you can!

In 2007 we also started receiving turtle sightings. Frontenac is a special park because it is home to 3 of the rarest turtles in Canada – Stinkpots (also known as Musk Turtles), Blanding's Turtles, and Map Turtles. Frontenac seems to have healthy populations of these turtles, but elsewhere in the country their habitat is shrinking.

As well females are being hit on roads as they lay their eggs. There are 5 species of turtles in the park, and they can be hard to tell apart, so take a picture to show park staff.

Why are we collecting these sightings? Snakes and turtles are hard for biologists to study – snakes hide in trees and underground, and of course turtles hide in the water. Snakes and turtles also move around a lot. Collecting sightings from the public helps us learn which habitat areas these animals are using in the park. The more we understand where the important habitat is, the better we can protect it.

Thanks for all your sightings, photos, and videos! Please continue to report your sightings to the Park Office.

Endangered Species Live Here!

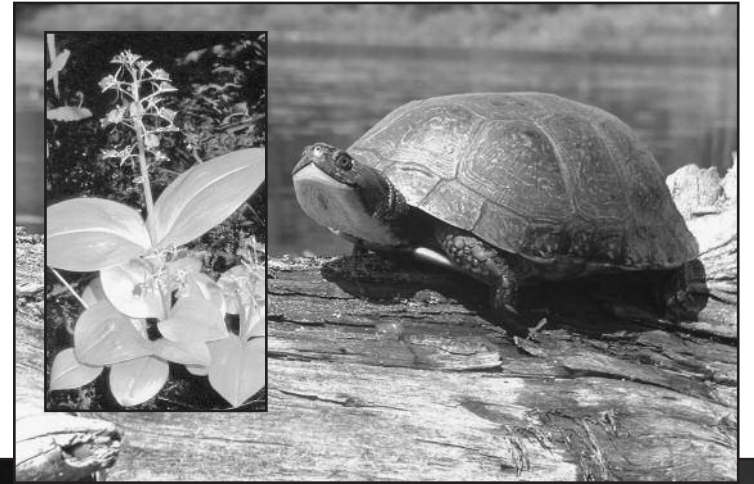
Frontenac Provincial Park is home to many endangered and threatened animals and plants. In fact, more than 100 vulnerable species have been found in Ontario's provincial parks.

Provincial parks play an important role in protecting species at risk and the places where they live – and so can you. To find out more, visit the Park Office or you can also visit ontario.ca/speciesatrisk.

The Black Ratsnake and Blanding's Turtle are threatened species, and the Purple Twayblade (inset) is endangered.

Some endangered and threatened species in Frontenac Park include: the Black Ratsnake, the Musk Turtle, the Blanding's

Turtle, Butternut trees, Puttyroot, Purple Twayblade orchid, and Broad Beech Fern, to mention a few.



Wondering What To Do With Your

Used Propane Cylinders

Here's what to do
Keep our parks beautiful, safe and litter free – **please take the cylinder home.**

Refillable tanks should be refilled and reused as many times as it is safe to do so. Single-use cylinders should go to a collection site that accepts this type of waste. To find a location close to you, visit www.dowhatyoucan.ca. You can search by postal code, municipality or by type of waste.

Do What You Can is operated by Stewardship Ontario, the industry organization responsible for managing household hazardous waste such as propane cylinders, paints, solvents, non rechargeable batteries, and other products that need special care when we have leftovers and empty containers.

Here's what not to do
Because of risks to people and the environment:
Don't discharge leftover propane

into the atmosphere, even if the cylinder comes with a device to do this.

Don't recycle any propane cylinder into your Blue Box. Don't throw them in the garbage.

When it comes to the environment, we all have a responsibility to **do what we can.**

Park Visitors - How Can You Help . . .

Stop the Spread of Invasive Species

Invasive species are one of the greatest threats to the biodiversity of Ontario's waters, wetlands and woodlands. Invasive species, such as the Zebra Mussel, Garlic Mustard and Rusty Crayfish can out compete native plants and animals and can have a devastating impact on our provincial parks.

Invasive species can hitch a ride on your

boat or recreational gear. Whether you are enjoying recreational activities on the water or on land, please take the following actions to limit the spread of invasive species:

- INSPECT, CLEAN and DRAIN all watercraft after each use.
- REMOVE mud and plant material from your hiking shoes, clothing and

- recreational equipment.
- BUY and BURN local firewood only.
- DISPOSE of unwanted bait on land.

For more information please visit www.invasivespecies.com

