



Friends of  
**Mashkinonje**

# THE WETLANDS OBSERVER

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Home of the Southern Bog Lemming, Leopard Frog, and numerous other fascinating species.



## MASHKINONJE PROVINCIAL PARK

by **Chuck Miller**

Park Superintendent, Mashkinonje / Ontario Parks

### **Plan Moving Forward .....**

The Mashkinonje Provincial Park - Preliminary Park Management Plan has been approved to go forward for public review. The plan is currently being translated and published. Public consultation will begin on the preliminary plan as soon as it is printed.

The preliminary plan is a statement of the preferred policy for the park and is reviewed by the public. The preliminary plan is developed from evaluation of previous public review and from park policy directives. The preliminary plan includes proposals on zoning, resource management, operations and development policies.

The planning process for the park began in 1998 with assistance from the Sudbury East Board of Trade. Background information and life science inventories were conducted in 1999 with assistance from many partners including local colleges, universities, business and government agencies. The park expanded under Ontario's Living Legacy. The new boundaries were regulated in December of 2000. A "terms of reference and background information" file were released for public review in March of 2001.

The park management planning process is being strongly supported by many community partners including the Friends of Mashkinonje and the local municipalities.

When the approved park management plan is complete it will guide resource management, operations and development activities in the park for the next 20 years. If you would like to be added to the mailing list for this planning effort contact mail your request to Park Superintendent, Mashkinonje Provincial Park, Killarney, Ontario P0M 2A0 or to [chuck.miller@mnr.gov.on.ca](mailto:chuck.miller@mnr.gov.on.ca)

To all those involved to date - Thank you for your ongoing support and comments.

## FOM DIRECTORS

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## Friends of Mashkinonje Observations

By Angela Martin

We hope you enjoyed our winter newsletter! If by some chance you have not seen it, you can view it at our website

[www.nipissing.com/mashkinonje](http://www.nipissing.com/mashkinonje)

or contact us at:

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The winter of 2001/2002 was unusual. It seemed that Mother Nature took a nap through December and January, then woke up and decided she had better deliver our seasons. Winter and spring arrived, but they were a few months late. The beauty and resilience of the Mashkinonje Provincial Park remains unchanged, enduring for all to enjoy. The Park also provides shelter for the birds and wildlife regardless of weather conditions. It has always been known that the ice at the West Arm Narrows is thin and sometimes does not freeze through the winter. The ducks, herons, gulls, and loons also know the West Arm Narrows and arrive as early as they can. They were seen here by April 2. Their arrival here is one of the earliest – if not *the* earliest in the region. This makes bird watching fun because it heralds the upcoming spring.



The most welcome songster in the spring is the Hermit Thrush. Also of the Thrush family, numerous Veerys have been heard singing in the woods. It was exciting to hear the warblers. These wonderful little birds with their beautiful songs include the Yellow-rumped, Chestnut-sided, Nashville, Tennessee, Magnolia, Mourning, Pine, Blackburnian, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow, Black and White, Black-throated Blue, Blackpoll, and the American Redstart, and the Northern Waterthrush. Another Warbler with an interesting but not so beautiful song is the “teacher, teacher, teacher,” Ovenbird.

The new and unusual sightings include the Eurasian Wigeon, and, as identified by Greg Miller of Ohio, Black-billed Cuckoo, Scarlet Tanager, Eared Grebe, Wilson's Phalarope, Dunlin, Forster's Tern, Black-bellied and Golden Plover. Dave and Martha Sauve, our Friends from Mississippi, identified LeConte's Sparrow and Piping Plovers to add to the Park's Life Science Inventory.

Most birds prefer to migrate over land rather than water. It may be that the Mashkinonje Provincial Park, being strategically located between the West Arm and the West Bay of Lake Nipissing and between Lake Nipissing and Georgian Bay, attracts more and varied species. Global warming and habitat loss in southern Ontario will also increase the number of birds that come through the Park.

### Secret Passage to The Old Sawmill Site

Along the winding shoreline of the West Arm, north of The Elbow, if you look closely, you may discover the secret passage. In this hidden enclave, if you are very circumspect, you may see moose, beaver, and remnants of yesteryear



### Northern Leopard Frog Endangered

Over the years we have all watched frogs with fascination. They don't flee at the sight of humans although they will jump when our children try to grab them. Frogs are also an indication of the health of our environment. Although we in the country don't see rapid changes in our environment, the number of Northern Leopard Frogs is decreasing to the point where they now have been declared endangered. This is a wake-up call.

### Questions for our Young Friends:

- (1) Where do frogs keep their money?
- (2) What kind of bull doesn't have horns?
- (3) Why are frogs so good at baseball?

*Answers: (1) In a riverbank, (2) A bullfrog, (3) Because they are good at catching flies*

*Taken from WWF Kids for Wildlife*

### Welcome New Friends

Ecole secondaire de la Riviere-des-Francais, FRI Ecological Services, Bill and Barb Cenker from Ohio, Nipissing Forest RMI, and Danièle and Richard Lemieux from Alban are now Friends of Mashkinonje.

**Saenchiur flechey** has become a Cotton Grass Fen Sponsor and **Chuck Miller** is a Muskrat Marsh sponsor.

**YOU ARE INVITED TO**  
The Friends of Mashkinonje Picnic

**Fish Fry**

**Silent Auction**

**Pontoon Boat Rides**

**Seaplane Rides**

**Bird Display by Chris Blomme of Laurentian University**

Sunday, August 18,  
12 noon until 4pm

Location: Sudbury East Board of Trade – West Arm Narrows, Hwy 64, Monetville

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**  
**BRING YOUR FRIENDS!**



**Ontario Living Legacy – Muskrat Creek and The Loudon Peatlands**

Knowing and understanding our environment is interesting and fun.

It seems the more we learn, the more we realize we don't know.

The Mashkinonje Provincial Park provides a great opportunity to protect nature, enjoy it, and learn.

All are welcome....

**Thank you for being a Friend of Mashkinonje**