

Bon Echo Rocks!

60,000 plus visitors participate in Natural Heritage Education (NHE) Programs at Bon Echo Provincial Park. NHE Coordinator Lisa Roach and her staff of 11 are offering a variety of programs designed to enlighten enquiring minds about our natural and cultural environment and to encourage good stewardship of our beautiful resources. Programs include interpretive boat tours along the massive Mazinaw Rock, numerous intriguing children's programs, amphitheatre presentations and nature hikes. The Children's activities are designed with the young camper in mind: fun and interactive for 45 minutes. The Evening Programs are enjoyed by all ages: full of facts, information and activities that are sure to leave you wanting more. The programs are free and both Day Visitors and Campers are encouraged to participate.

The Friends of Bon Echo Park work to serve and inform in all their activities. Their goal is to keep alive the natural and cultural heritage of Bon Echo. In *A Camper's Guide to Ontario's Best Parks* (Boston Mills Press) author Donna Carpenter, a seasoned explorer and mother of two, rated 44 of Ontario's Parks. Bon Echo rated in the top five with its environmental and educational activities. The Friends contribute to this success by providing resources which enable the NHE program to double its staff.

A schedule of each week's activities this summer is posted on the Friends website: www.mazinaw.on.ca/fobecho. Check out the fascinating new programs every Friday for the following two weeks. Special upcoming programs such as astronomer Terence Dickinson (July 18) and the Bon Echo Art Exhibition and Sale (July 24, 25, 26) are presented on the site.

A Daily Vehicle Permit (only \$13 - less for seniors and disabled) admits everyone in the car. A Summer Vehicle Permit (\$100 - less than a trip to a Senators game) provides daily access to every Ontario Provincial Park until November 30th. Bon Echo is a great place to swim, enjoy interpretive boat tours, browse in the Greystones Gift and Book Shop or Visitor Centre, climb the Cliff Top Trail and hike other trails or just unwind in the beautiful surroundings. Be sure to include it in the itinerary for yourself and your guests this summer.