

# **PRESS RELEASE – Presqu’ile Park -**

## **Monarch and Migrants Weekend on at Presqu’ile Sept 4 & 5**

Presqu’ile’s annual celebration of all things that migrate is on again this year over the Labour Day weekend. “Presqu’ile being a point of land that sticks out into Lake Ontario is a natural trap for south bound migrants, be they birds, butterflies or other insects” states park naturalist David Bree. “These flying creatures tend to follow the shoreline of Lake Ontario, looking for an easy way across the big water. They funnel down into Presqu’ile and are reluctant to head north again to get out of the park and are equally reluctant to cross the lake. Also in Presqu’ile’s favour is the fact that we have a number of good natural habitats where these migrants can rest and feed. So they just hang out for awhile waiting for the right conditions to jump across the lake. This provides those that like looking at animals a great opportunity for finding and seeing these animals”.

To help visitors find and identify the many migrants that pass through Presqu’ile on this weekend there are a number of events planned. There is chance to get a close look at small birds at the daily bird banding demonstration. From 8am to noon Elizabeth Kellogg and Roger Frost will have their nets set up to catch and band any birds moving through the Owen Pt parking lot area. This event can only go in dry weather for the safety of the birds.

One of the most popular events is the monarch tagging demonstration put on by Monarch expert Don Davis, between 1pm and 3pm both days. Don has been tagging Monarchs at Presqu’ile for 24 years. Visitors will see these butterflies up close, and while Don does the tagging, you will be able to release the monarchs. Several of the butterflies tagged at this event over the years have been recovered later in the year in Mexico, Texas and other points south.

In addition to these special events park naturalists will be leading a number of bird and butterfly walks scheduled for 10am and 4pm both days. There will also be a children’s programme on monarchs Saturday at 3pm and Friday features an evening program looking at Migration at 8pm. All events are free but a \$14.00/vehicle park entrance fee applies. For more information on this celebration call David at 613 475-4324 ext. 225 or email at [david.bree@ontario.ca](mailto:david.bree@ontario.ca)