



# Paddles & Trails

**SUMMER 2002**

VOLUME XIV  
NUMBER II

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*A splash of colour  
compliments of Journal  
Printing Sudbury, Ontario.  
Paper generously provided  
by Cascade Resources.*

## Summer 2002 Killarney Events

### **Friends Weekend July 12th-14th**

#### **An Evening with the Friends**

#### **David Archibald Concert**

Friday, July 12th, 2002

Bring the whole family for an evening of musical entertainment.

#### **Friends of Killarney Park**

#### **Annual General Meeting**

Saturday, July 13, 2002

11.00 am

Killarney Provincial Park Amphitheatre

Everyone Welcome

#### **Friends of Killarney Park**

#### **Silent Auction**

Friday, July 12th-Sunday July 14th, 2002

Come and bid on a wide variety of great outdoor gear generously donated by our sponsors.

#### **Natural Resources Monitoring Dates**

Loon Surveys-August 11th

Butterfly Count-July 14th

#### **Killarney Lion's Club Outdoor Dance**

Saturday, July 27th, 2002

An evening of music and dance at the Killarney Municipal Outdoor Lot.

#### **Killarney Volunteer Fire Department**

#### **Annual Fish Fry**

Sunday, July 28th, 2002

Live music and plenty of fresh Georgian Bay fish.



George Lake's idyllic waters await the summertime visitor.

## ***Words of Wisdom***

Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as the sunshine into the trees. The winds will blow their freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves.

***John Muir***

## Executive Director's Corner

The snow has melted, the lakes have thawed and the birds and blackflies are returning – all sure signs that summer has finally arrived. The park staff and campers are starting to arrive. With a number of new projects under way and of course our annual canoe raffle and silent auction to look forward to, Friends is getting geared up for another busy summer. Friends welcomes 3 new staff to our Outpost team – Andrew Dorland, Lauren Rethoret and Taylor Curry-Moskal. They will be ready to welcome you with a smile and help you purchase a canoe raffle ticket or two. As you plan for your yearly trip to Killarney, keep the Friends in mind, and be sure to stop by the Outpost and check out some of our many new products this year. Travel safe and we look forward to seeing you this summer.

Sincerely,  
Dawn Brown  
Executive Director

## Thanks to our generous donors of this year's Canoe Raffle Prizes



### Fall Campsite and Philip Edward Island Rehabilitation Weekend

Come and join the Friends for the Fall Campground  
Rehabilitation and Philip Edward I Island Clean Up  
weekend. September 27th- 29th, 2002

#### Campsite Rehabilitation Team

**Friday Sept 27th** - Check in -  
Start Campsite Clean Ups

**Sat Sept 28th** - 9:00 am -  
Campsite Rehabilitation (site re-  
vegetation , defining boundaries)  
12:30 pm - Friends BBQ  
5:30 pm - Potluck Dinner, Evening  
Slide Show

**Sun Sept 29th** - 9:00 am -  
Friends Breakfast

**Accommodation** - Camping at  
George Lake Campground or  
Ontario Ranger Camp

**Food** - Saturday lunch and  
Sunday breakfast supplied by  
Friends

#### Philip Edward Island Team

**Friday Sept 27th** - Check in -  
Start Chikanishing Shoreline  
Clean Up

**Sat Sept 28th** - 9:00 am -  
Leave for Philip Edward I Island  
for clean up and privy building.  
6:00 pm - Dinner served on the  
rocks

**Sun Sept 29th** - Breakfast and  
finish clean up

**Accommodation** - Camping on Philip  
Edward I Island. Please bring your  
own tent and sleeping bag.

**Food** - Saturday lunch and  
Sunday breakfast supplied by  
Friends

For more information and to register and/or book your  
accommodations at the Ontario Ranger Camp, please  
contact Kris or Dawn at (705) 287-2800.

**Paddles and Trails**  
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It is printed three times a year.

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Dawn Brown, Nicole Charette,  
& Kristian Puhvel

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**Submissions and  
suggestions are always  
welcome!**

## Nature Nugget



Over the past few months there have been a number of Bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) sightings in and near the Killarney townsite. Typically, a secretive and seldom seen member of the cat family, the bobcat's range extends across the most southerly sections of Canada from Nova Scotia to British Columbia.

Weighing from 14 - 29 lbs, similar in size to a lynx, the bobcat can be distinguished by its tawny fur, shorter ear tufts and a longer tail with a black bar on the upper side.

Once threatened due to over-trapping, populations have stabilised and returned to near normal levels in many parts of the country. Found primarily in forested areas, this cat can adapt to a variety of habitats.

The bobcat's mottled dark appearance makes for excellent camouflage. A skilled hunter, this carnivore hunts small prey by remaining motionless, waiting to pounce on perspective prey consisting primarily of snowshoe hare and small rodents. When food is scarce and during periods of deep snow, bobcats have even been known to predate on deer.

Bobcat's are solitary animals who come together for the purposes of mating during February and March. Litters usually consist of 2 to 3 kittens, with the young typically remaining at their mother's side for three to five months.

**Front  
Foot**



**Hind  
Foot**



## Outdoor Photography

*with Scott Card*

### — Shooting Killarney Village —

Killarney is one of the most picturesque locations in Ontario. From striking white quartzite mountains to crystal clear blue lakes and red granite shorelines, it offers many subjects for photographers. Often overlooked is the village of Killarney, nestled at the end of highway 637. This small fishing community has charming east coast style, bold colors and fantastic old buildings, boats and relics scattered along the waterfront.

I suggest starting at Hebert Fisheries in the center of town (be sure and go for fish and chips too!). It has many different colors, shapes and interesting lines to get you started. Next, move west along Channel Street to Pitfield's General Store. Halfway there you will pass an old red boathouse and net shed belonging to the Mayor of Killarney, Laurier Low. This is a perfect spot to create some artistic images using the old abandoned fishing gear. Pitfield's Store and a small footbridge leading to Killarney Mountain Lodge round out the end of the street. Just before the bridge is an old wrecked vessel that is just waiting to be captured on film.

If you travel to the other end of Channel Street you will see St. Bonaventure Church and also the Sportsman Inn. If you happen to be visiting Killarney in July and August, head to the Sportsman's and point your lens towards the boats docked there.

One of my favorite locations in Killarney is the east lighthouse at Red Rock Point. Originally built in 1866, it is located one mile east of Killarney. If you are driving, follow the signs on Ontario Street East. The lighthouse offers rugged shorelines with striking red granite rocks. Be sure and hike around the backside of the lighthouse for some excellent shooting vistas. Sunrise and sunsets are the best time to visit for dramatic images. Happy Shooting!



*Scott Card is a professional photographer who resides annually in Killarney. He can be reached at [scottcardphotography@sympatico.ca](mailto:scottcardphotography@sympatico.ca) and is always looking for other photographers to join him.*

# Superintendent's Note

## Killarney: Ontario's Living Legacy Implementation

You may see some new faces wearing "Assistant Park Superintendent" uniforms this summer. Cam Hoepp, Lara Zamiska and Mike Lavin have been operating the "day to day" and "capital project" aspects of the park for the last year. Leslie Joynt, Assistant Park Superintendent, and I have been working full time on implementing **Ontario's Living Legacy** at Killarney, the French River and Mashkinonje Provincial Parks.

The thrill of seeing substantial area of new intended park lands at Killarney, French River and Mashkinonje has been replaced by significant work assignments for park staff that will take several years to complete.

You will begin to see the first elements of the implementation of the **Great Lakes Heritage Coast (GLHC)** "Signature Site" this summer. GLHC is funding major visitor centres, improvements at the Chikanishing Access as well as trail head and canoe access point interpretive signs.

At Killarney and French River architects have been engaged for about a year now and designs for the **visitor centres** are beginning to take shape. You will likely see the first concept plans at the park this summer along with Environmental Study Reports. The Killarney centre is being planned for a site in the area immediately west of the park office. The theme of the Killarney visitor centre will be a celebration of wilderness. The French River centre is planned for the plateau area near the picnic site at Hwy 69 and the French River.

The GLHC will also see **interpretive signs** installed at the canoe access points and trailheads. The signs will highlight wilderness protection, resource and safety messages. This is a joint project with the Friends, Ontario Parks and the GLHC. The Friends are currently seeking sponsors for building materials to develop support structures for the new trailhead signs.

The first stage in the **planning** of the Killarney Signature Site is occurring this summer and will involve the earth science, life science, recreation use, economic and social impact surveys. We welcome you to join the park planning effort by registering at the park office to be on our mailing list.

The boundaries for an expanded Mashkinonje Provincial Park, on the west arm of Lake Nipissing (also managed out of Killarney) have been regulated, the Friends of Mashkinonje established, and the first Preliminary Park Plan is about to be released. The Friends of Killarney have been very helpful and generous with information sharing - in getting the new Friends off to a good start at Mashkinonje.

There is still much work ahead to make the OLL vision a reality. The boundaries at Killarney and French River need to be regulated, the Killarney Signature Site needs to be planned, the French River and Mashkinonje Provincial Parks need to move from a non-operating to operating park status.

We are on an exciting journey for the next few years that will see significant protection of the NE shores of Georgian Bay.

*Chuck Miller / Park Superintendent*

## Discover Killarney's Heritage

•••• Visit the Killarney Museum ••••



Hours of operation: 9:00 am-5:00 pm (Sun-Mon)

July 1st - September 4th

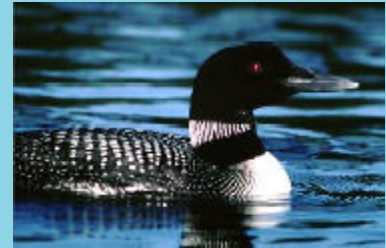
Admission: Free

29 Commissioner Street

(across from the Municipal Office)

# Summer 2002 Wildlife Survey Events

## What do Loons, Butterflies, Reptiles and Breeding Birds Have in Common?



Answers: 1) They all have scales, 2) They can all be found in Killarney Park, and 3) They will all be the target of various monitoring programs planned for Killarney this summer.

Summer 2002 promises to be an exciting season for wildlife viewing in Killarney Park and park staff are already getting ready for the annual series of monitoring programs. An open invitation is extended to all Friends, friends of "Friends", and visitors to take part in these important (and fun) events. Participation in these programs will typically involve a day's worth of exploring Killarney Park followed by a wrap up dinner. Join us for one, two or all the following enjoyable events.

### Butterfly Count

**Date: July 14th**

*Description:* Calling any and all net-swinging enthusiasts, beginner and expert lepidopterists for a day of butterfly chasing and counting. Data collected on this day will be forwarded to the North America Butterfly Association.

*Included:* Nets, guidebooks, leadership, and a wrap up BBQ.

### Summer Loon Survey

**Date: August 11th**

*Description:* A new generation of loons has hit the water and a scouring of Killarney's lakes is needed to monitor the reproductive success of our loons. Join us for a full day of scrutinizing Killarney's southern lakes for signs of loons to assess the health of loon populations on Killarney's acid damaged lakes. Information gathered during the day will be forwarded to the Canadian Loon Lakes Survey (CLLS) and will be included as data for Killarney's role in the Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Network (EMAN).

*Included:* A wrap up BBQ, fun, sun and less bugs.

*Required:* Binoculars, canoes and gear or hiking gear.

### Breeding Bird Atlas

**Date: May-July 2002-2005**

*Description:* Over the next five years the entire province of Ontario will be surveyed in 10km x 10km squares for evidence of breeding birds. Killarney occupies 12 of these squares. Data collected will be used to produce an atlas of breeding bird activity for the province. Individuals or groups can participate anytime during the breeding season.

*Included:* Binoculars and field guides.

*Required:* better than novice experience in bird-watching and identification.

### Reptile Awareness Program

**Date: Anytime**

*Description:* The Georgian Area is blessed with an exceptional variety of rare Ontario reptiles. Many of these species are on Species of Concern Lists. Any sightings of reptiles (turtles, snakes, lizards, or crocodiles- although crocodiles are not expected in this part of the world) should be reported to the naturalist staff at the George Lake Campground.

*Most of these events/programs require prior registration. Please contact the park at (705-287-2900) or the Friends of Killarney Park at (705-287-2800) for further details*

# Great Mountain Lake

## ~ Lake Trout Genetic Reserve ~

As the boundaries of Killarney Park expand to include more area, waterbodies, and Great Lakes shoreline, so to does our focus on maintaining the biological integrity of these areas.

The Cooperative Freshwater Ecology Unit in cooperation with several other partners (Friends of Killarney Park, universities, government, and industry) has been studying and monitoring Killarney Park's terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity for many years. Killarney Park, which once supported healthy native lake trout lakes, was one of the first documented areas in North America that lost substantial fish populations due to acidification. Fortunately things have changed since the



1960's. With reduced emissions from the Sudbury smelters, water quality has improved in many lakes and some lakes can now support a lake trout population. In fact, for the first time in over three decades, young, wild lake trout were caught during a 2001 NORDIC netting survey in George Lake and Johnnie Lake.

Although not as directly affected by acidification, the Great Lakes have also seen a dramatic decline in the number of native stocks of lake trout. Many stocks have been lost from Lake Superior and all are extinct in Lakes Ontario, Erie and Michigan. In Lake Huron, the only two remaining native lake trout stocks are isolated in Iroquois Bay and Parry Sound.

Iroquois Bay, situated adjacent to Killarney Park in the northeast end of McGregor Bay, was once known for its abundance of trophy sized lake trout. However, over the years through overharvesting, introduction of invasive species and severe pH depressions, the Iroquois Bay lake trout stock has become threatened with extinction. By 1976 and 1978 index netting and creel surveys indicated that there was very little natural recruitment occurring and that the only small lake trout being caught bore clips revealing their hatchery origin. A spawning shoal survey conducted in 1993 and 1994 estimated the mature adult population of lake trout in Iroquois Bay to be only 100-200 individuals and the number of native fish in that population was thought to be as low as a few dozen.



To protect this rare genetic stock and as insurance against a catastrophic loss of the brood stock at Tarentorus Fish Culture Station in Sault Saint Marie, Great Mountain Lake, a 198 ha pristine lake found in the heart of Killarney Provincial Park was selected as an ideal refuge lake to create a genetic reserve for the endangered Iroquois Bay lake trout strain. Great Mountain Lake proved to be an excellent candidate lake because it met the following criteria: 1) It is located in a protected wilderness area. 2) It is a headwater lake that is isolated from other waterbodies that contain lake trout populations (ensuring that the introduced fish will not interbreed with other stocks), and invasive species. 3) It was designated a fish sanctuary in 1995 and no angling

has been allowed in the lake. 4) Lake trout once resided in the lake and now, although there are currently no trout present, there is suitable pH and a good prey base.

On October 29, 2001 190 adult Iroquois Bay lake trout were stocked into Great Mountain Lake to establish a genetically pure population that will be protected in a wilderness park for years to come. In future years, follow-up stocking assessments will be conducted in Great Mountain Lake to determine the success and health of the stocked lake trout. Additional Iroquois Bay lake trout will also continue to be planted whenever excess fish become available from the captive breeding program.

*Christine Brereton*  
*Cooperative Freshwater Ecology Unit*

# 5th Annual Canoe Raffle

Three terrific prizes up for grabs!



16' Custom Killarney Classic Nova Craft Canoe



A two night adventure package for two persons at Killarney Mountain Lodge



A complete Tasco Spotting Scope and Tripod

This is an important fundraising activity for the Friends. All proceeds from ticket sales will be used for supporting important park projects and programs.

To purchase your 2002 Raffle Ticket stop by the Outpost at George or Bell Lake or call us at 705-287-2800 and we will be happy to send you the potential winning ticket.

**Draw Date: October 31st, 2002**

## Killarney Landscapes

**New**

### 2003 Calendar

### 16 Month Edition

Discover the beauty of the Killarney area through the lens of nature photographers Scott Card, Ed Snucins, Rob Stimpson and Philip Schmidt. This 10X12' Friends of Killarney Park calendar features a variety of images which capture the diverse landscapes of the Killarney area.



**Member's Price: \$16.75 (includes taxes, postage and handling)**

Please send me a copy of the 2003 Killarney Calendar

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Province/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment By:  Cheque/ Money Order  Visa  Mastercard

Card# \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: Friends of Killarney Park  
Killarney, Ontario P0M 2A0

## MEMBERSHIP:

### JOIN OR RENEW TODAY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Province/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Annual Membership

- \$10.00 Individual**
- \$20.00 Family**
- \$30.00 Organized group**

#### Corporate Sponsorship

- \$100.00 Granite Ridge**
- \$200.00 Silver Peak**
- \$300.00 La Cloche**

In addition to my membership

I wish to donate:

**\$100   \$50   \$30**

Payment By:  Cheque/Money Order  
 Mastercard  Visa

Card# \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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#### For office use only:

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[www.friendsofkillarneypark.ca](http://www.friendsofkillarneypark.ca)

# From One Friend to Another

## KILLARNEY PROVINCIAL PARK WILDERNESS CANOE TRIP SEPTEMBER 8-15, 2001

The challenges of a canoe trip around the Charlton-Great Mountain Lake Loop of Killarney Provincial Park is a trek well worth the experience for any die-heart canoeist. KPP is considered one of Canada's and Ontario's most beautiful and unspoiled parks with mountain ranges, quartzite ridges, crystalline lakes and low-lying bogs. The amazing views of Georgian Bay and the natural wilderness of the La Cloche Mountains are a highlight for both hikers and canoeists. Unpredictable weather patterns, with sudden, incoming thunder and lightning storms from Georgian Bay are re-known in this region and will require a canoeist to be on constant alert.



Norm Rail, John Nikita, Wayne Morison and Norm Hooper

The portages offer all the expected challenges of wilderness canoeing for even the most seasoned canoeist; from the steep, rocky and rooted inclines and declines, balancing over narrow planks placed over streams and wet areas, to the test of maneuverability on the slippery shorelines, and finally to "riding the crest" of white-capped waves.

Rocky peninsulas provide a tranquil setting with idyllic locations with a diversity of magnificent vistas that become spectacular with ever-changing sunsets.

The heart of KPP's eco-region for this loop consists of picturesque Little Mountain Lake, magical with its unique sense that time could easily stand still; the "breathtaking" view of the La Cloche Mountain summit and its reflection on Kirk Creek; the massive marshlands of McGregor Bay; the rugged, granite islands of Georgian Bay; and the "no-man's land" bogs.

The sighting of wildlife in any of our parks is without question a highlight, and this area does not disappoint! Expect glimpses of moose, otter, beaver, turkey vultures, the ever-present loon, herons, and ducks, snakes, and yes, perhaps an encounter with a black bear. Along most trails can be found several species of fungi on fallen, rotting trees, various kinds of mushrooms, flora and fauna as well as an abundance of poison ivy with its shiny, green trifoliate leaves – a photographer's haven!

Swimming in the aqua water of Nellie Lake is considered a highlight to the northern boundary of the park while the pristine condition of Carmichael Lake enables one to enjoy the view of boulders and fallen trees at 40 feet below its surface.

KPP is truly a vast tract of wilderness that deserves respect from visitors for its beauty and character, but above all, for its unique environment the park lives up to all expectations and will remain etched in memory for a lifetime.

Enjoy a detailed 9-part story of a trip around the Charlton – Great Mountain Lake Loop taken by four canoeing enthusiasts, along with some splendid photographs of the area. This can be viewed on Jim Hegyi's website at <http://www.canoestories.com>

*Compiled by Norm Hooper (hooper@storm.ca)*

*Edited by Geri Hooper*



The cliffs of Great Mountain Lake



Early morning on Grace Lake