



Paddles & Trails

WINTER 2002

VOLUME XIV
NUMBER 1

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*A splash of colour
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by Graphic Resources.*

Friends of Killarney Park.... Protection, Preservation, *Education*

It is exhilarating to be back in the thick of Friends things, after being off with my new family last year. Friends has an exciting year planned with many new projects to look forward to, as well as the continuation of most of our ongoing projects. One of Friends' major objectives is to develop programs and materials to promote public awareness, education, understanding and appreciation of the Park's natural, historic and cultural resources. Through this, we will be focusing on education related projects in 2002.

Ongoing projects this year will include the Naturalist Pack Lending Program, Spring Campground Rehabilitation and Clean-up, Friends Weekend in July with the Annual General Meeting and the Annual Canoe and Gear Raffle.

Also this year, Friends will be constructing new campground information boards for the comfort station and toilet areas. These boards will be designed to display current park events and programs, including Friends notes and activities, as well as important park management messages like bear-proofing your campsite, soap in the lake and restricted fire zones.

As a follow up to last year's updating and reprinting of the Granite Ridge and Cranberry Bog trail guides, Friends of Killarney Park will be helping to finance new trailhead signs for the Granite Ridge and Cranberry Bog trails.

After the first five very successful years, the Killarney Park Canoe Guide is ready for a re-print. We will have the 2nd edition ready for sale in July 2002.

With the increased visitation in Killarney Park in the past decade, it becomes more imperative that campers using the backcountry need to be aware of how their presence influences the natural habitat and how to reduce their impact and still have a safe and enjoyable backcountry experience. Friends will produce a Wilderness Skills brochure to be mailed out with backcountry reservations. This educational publication will include low impact camping techniques as well as safe camping and travel practices and park management messages.

Friends is committed to ensuring protection from increased recreational impacts not only in the immediate park but also in the adjacent park land area. Volunteers will help clean up the area around Philip Edward Island in Georgian Bay, a popular sea-kayaking destination. Work in the fall will include garbage pick up, dismantling of excess fire pits and other man-made structures and possibly the construction of some box privies.

The Sponsor-a-Lake project will raise funds to be put directly to the South Shield Acid Lakes Restoration, Research, Monitoring and Education Program 2002. This project, along with research and monitoring, will encourage volunteerism through rehabilitation projects, guided ecotours, interpretive displays and brochures.

With these and other exciting projects in store for the Friends this year, we hope you will help us make a difference, either through financial support or by getting involved as a volunteer! We look forward to seeing you this summer.

Dawn Brown
Executive Director

UPCOMING EVENTS

8th Annual Campground Rehabilitation Weekend

Come Out and Join Friends for the 8th Annual Campground Rehabilitation and Clean Up Weekend May 3rd - 5th, 2002

-Campground site rehabilitation
-Interior site clean up
Saturday lunch and Sunday
-Rake leaves from campsites
-Clean up litter and debris
-Meet new 'Friends'
-Eat great food

Friday May 3rd - Check in - Start Campsite Clean Ups

Saturday May 4th - 9:00 am Meet at Ontario Ranger Camp
12:30 pm - Friends Barbecue at Ontario Ranger Camp
5:30 pm - Potluck Dinner, Group Photo, Evening Slide Show

Sunday May 5th - 9:00 am Friends Breakfast at Ontario Ranger Kitchen

Accommodation - Camping at George Lake Campground or Ontario Ranger Camp (Limited Space Available)

Cooking - Full kitchen facilities are available at the Ontario Rangers Camp, including pots, pans, dishes and cutlery.
- Saturday lunch and Sunday breakfast supplied by Friends

Stuff to Bring

- Saturday Potluck Dinner Dish (let us know what you are bringing)
- Sleeping bag & pillow
- Towel & bathing suit (for the sauna at the Ranger Camp)
- Lawn Rake, Garden Rake, Shovel, Wheelbarrow
- Work Gloves
- Rain Gear
- Plastic grocery bags

Carpenters needed to construct campground info boards

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.

Killarney's 6th Annual Loon Survey

Volunteers are needed for this important monitoring program. All you need to join us for a day of loon watching is basic birding skills and a pair of binoculars. Please call the Friends or Park office for more details.

When: May 25th, 2002

Winter Fun Day

Bring the whole family and join the Friends for a day of outdoor fun at George Lake. Don't forget your x-country skis, snowshoes tobogans and your appetite.

When: March 16th, 2002
Free admission to the park

Killarney T-shirt Design Contest for Kids

Calling all kids!
Use your imagination and send us your creative hand drawn images of what "Killarney Is".

The winner's design will be printed on our children's t-shirts and sold in the Outpost this summer. The winner will be awarded two t-shirts and a \$30 gift certificate at the outpost.

Please submit all entries by

April 15th.

We look forward to seeing them.

Paddles and Trails

is the newsletter of the friends of Killarney Park. It is printed three times a year.

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Editorial Team

Dawn Brown, Nicole Charette, & Kristian Puhvel

Layout

Kristian Puhvel

Contributors

Staff, Directors and "Friends"

Friends of Killarney Park
Killarney, Ontario
POM 2A0

Tel: (705) 287-2800

Fax: (705) 287-2893

e-mail: friends@friendsofkillarneypark.ca
on the world wide web

www.friendsofkillarneypark.ca

Submissions and suggestions are always welcome!

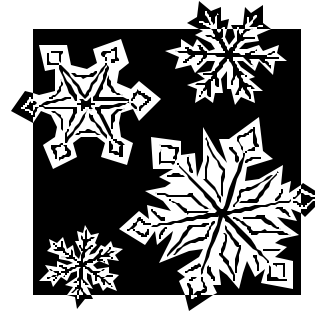
KILLARNEY NATURE NUGGET

This past November, the George Lake Park office area had a rare visit from a cattle egret. Standing roughly the same size as a crow, these yellow billed white birds, members of the heron family, are uncommon in the province and are seldom seen. Originally, from Africa, the bird is a recent migrant to North America's shores. The first recorded sighting in Ontario was in 1962 and the bird has yet to establish itself as a regular breeder. With an appetite for insects, worms and other small vertebrates, cattle egrets are typically found in pastures and fields. They have even been known to ride on the backs of livestock to capture flies. Why it chose Killarney is a bit of a mystery. After a week of feeding and modelling for photos, our visitor took its cue from the frosty nights and continued on its journey to milder climes.



Good Luck Andrea Duchesne

After serving the Friends of Killarney Park faithfully for the past three years, Andrea Duchesne left the organization in mid-February. During her time with the Friends, Andrea held several positions including Outpost Clerk and Administrative Assistant. Most recently, in 2001, she served as the General Manager, overseeing the day to day operations of the organization. The Friends thank Andrea for her years of dedication, hard work and wish her continued success in all her endeavours. Her presence in the office will truly be missed.



Christmas Bird Count

After trudging through deep snow and contending with cold temperatures in 2000, this year's participants of Killarney's 4th Annual Christmas bird count woke up to a mild, overcast day with nary a snowflake coating the ground. The fourth annual count attracted 23 enthusiastic birders, many belonging to The Sudbury Field Naturalists. Participants were divided into small groups and focused on a number of areas along the highway 637 corridor. Due to the lack of ice, some observers were even able to travel by canoe into Freeland Lake and along the shoreline of Georgian Bay. This made for some interesting sightings including red-breasted mergansers, a bald eagle and even a common loon. In total, 34 species and 650 birds were counted, thereby making 2001 the most successful yet in terms of species diversity and numbers.

Winter's Late Arrival

After experiencing a mild and virtually snowfree month of January, winter returned to Killarney on February 1st, leaving in its wake a deep coating of 20 centimetres of snow and frigid temperatures. This was sure to send hibernating animals, spotted in the area, back to their dens and burrows. George Lake, pictured below, was completely frozen by late January.



Good Old Days

By Richard Todd



The Driveway

In the late 60s, when Killarney Provincial Park was very young, and road access into Killarney village not much older, a drive along Highway 637 was a definite adventure. Once you turned off of Highway 69, and especially after you'd crossed the railway tracks, you had the feeling that you had arrived. As you negotiated the many curves that have been straightened out since then, and drove across one-lane portable Bailey bridges, it was hard not to get excited with the imminence of your arrival. My friends and I hardly thought of 637 as a highway at all. We called it the Driveway.

If you were hitch-hiking, as I sometimes did in those days, the adventure began out at 69 where there were signs all over telling people not to pick up riders. That was because of the nearby Burwash Industrial Farm, a minimum-security provincial prison from which inmates sometimes wandered off. You might have to walk an hour or two along 637 before you got a ride. Of course you might have to walk an hour or two before anyone even came by, so quiet was the road back then.

The road crossed the Wanapetei River at some particularly scenic rapids a few hundred metres east of its present location, on a set of the ubiquitous Bailey bridges. The spot was a

popular destination for picnickers from Sudbury, many of whom never ventured as far as the park.

A bit later you came to Tyson Lake where a modest marina served cottagers and fishermen. In those pre-quota, pre-permit days some people entered the park from Tyson Lake by a route now little used. A little beyond Tyson the road climbed a little and then curved, yielding a sudden, breathtaking view of Silver Peak. That part of the highway has long since been straightened and to get a similar view now you have to turn onto Bell Lake Road and drive for a minute or so.

More Bailey bridges crossed more rivers, including the West Mahzenazing, where you could turn onto Johnnie Lake Road and launch your canoe at the present access point

by the dam. Or, if you didn't have a canoe, you could rent one from John Chapman at Johnny Lake Lodge. A bit further on there were dirt roads leading to either end of Kakakise Lake, one of which could be followed on foot to Norway Lake and beyond, almost to the foot of Silver Peak.

The George Lake campground was a more modest affair in those days, and the park office little more than a shed, often unattended. Going past George Lake, just to the west of what is now the park boundary, there was a little store called Camper's Mart, run by an older couple. It closed in 1969 due to illness and, one suspects, insufficient business, though the little brown building is still there. Killarney outfitters would not come into being for many years and even the Texaco station and restaurant between the park and the village, now long abandoned, lay well in the future.

But the village was much as it is now. Though some of the small businesses were different, the bigger ones have been remarkably durable. Life has doubtless changed for the villagers in the years since the highway and park came into being, but for visitors, things are much the same as they were 35 years ago.



The village of Killarney's atmospheric character has changed little since this photo was taken.

FRIENDS OF KILLARNEY PARK 2001 SUPPORTERS AND DONORS

With the generosity of the following individuals, Friends of Killarney Park continues to be a strong and effective force in educating people and protecting Killarney's beauty for present and future campers to enjoy. Any funds collected through donations will go directly towards Friends of Killarney Natural Heritage Trust. We thank the following donors who supported Friends of Killarney Park in the 2001 year.

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The Outdoor Store
Mr. Vince Pollesel
Alan Hills
Imperial International
Tumblehome Outdoor Clothing

Superintendent's Note

Killarney 2001 : "...so many folks...put their lives so freely at risk"

The weather is miserable – the fall gales and wet flurries have begun - a good day to catch up on reading of ship wrecks of the Great Lakes and to reflect on previous kayak trips.

(From - *Mysteries and Histories: Shipwrecks of the Great Lakes*)

Most Great Lakes maritime buffs will tell you that the worst storm in the lakes history was the "**Great Storm of 1913**" where over a three-day period, 12 big lakers were wrecked and 25 others tossed ashore. Between 250 to 300 mariners were killed... In 1867, 23 vessels were totally wrecked and another 23 lakers were tossed ashore...(Wes Oleszewski).

(From - *Georgian Bay: The Sixth Great Lake*)

September 14, 1882 ... there is no other equaled, in loss of life to the ASIA... over 100 people on board ...only two survivors, a boy and girl... "**The wind was a stiff gale but no one apprehended any danger whatever... next morning... the storm was raging, the wind blowing a perfect hurricane and the waves appeared to be rolling mountains high .**"...(from life boat) **I looked towards the wreck,** where nothing was to be seen but a struggling mass of humanity... "(James Barry)

(From - *OPP Press Release*)

September 3, 2001 - Killarney...near Philip Edward Island ... one canoe capsized sending two people into the cold water... a second canoe destroyed by the pounding waves ...after being rescued...by some helpful and prepared kayakers...against advice given set out again ... rescuers braved the large waves ... near disaster averted "**...so many folks...put their lives so freely at risk**"...11 people rescued near Philip Edward Island

In times past a ship captain could only to watch a falling barometer and make a best guess at the expected weather. In our modern world weather is plotted by meteorologists, photographed by satellite, and modeled by computers. (Wes Oleszewski)

(From - *The Basic Book of Sea Kayaking*)

When planning a trip (on Georgian Bay) what you need is some kind of warning so to know whether or not it is safe to venture out. If wind blows unhindered across a large expanse of water, this is known as fetch. The bigger the fetch, the rougher will be the conditions. This is why beginners should stay to sheltered waters.

You need to know when the wind is going to arrive, how strong it is going to be and its direction. For this you need a weather forecast. The Coast Guard in Canada provides continuous radio weather forecasts (from the lighthouse in Killarney!). These can be picked up on small weather radios or hand held VHF distress radios. (Derek Hutchins)

Small Craft Warnings - wind speeds exceed 20 knots
Gale Warnings - winds 34 to 47 knots
Storm Warnings- winds exceed 47 knots
(Always wear a personal floatation device).

While enjoying the Killarney coast be mindful of the weather, help those in difficulty with kindness, and perhaps take a moment and say a prayer for all those who travel on the (Great) Lakes.

Chuck Miller / Park Superintendent

The early-morning tranquility of Georgian Bay often gives way to afternoon gales.



Photo Credit: Chuck Miller

2001 Photo Contest

The Winners!

Brenda Stevens, Toronto, Ontario
Winner – Go For It!

Rudolph Nikolaus, Richmond Hill, Ontario
Honourable Mention - Go For It!

Laura Taylor, Guelph, Ontario
Winner – The Great Outdoors

Margaret Cunningham, Winkfleet, Ontario
Honourable Mention — The Great Outdoors

The winners and honourable mention of both categories will have their photos printed in the 2002 park tabloid and will receive various Kodak products, thanks to our generous sponsor **Kodak Canada Ltd.**

Thank you to everyone who entered. All 94 entries were picturesque!

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| •Cathy Amrein | •Carole Iritz | •Alicia Pretty |
| •Joanne Bonomi | •Debby Jauch | •Beata Raczynska |
| •Jane Breukelaar | •Nora Jones | •Kelly Rogers |
| •John Breukelaar | •Sandy Lambert | •Manon Ringuette |
| •David Capper | •Paula Lockyer | •Darlene Roque |
| •Jane Collins | •Dan MacDonnell | •Melanie Roque |
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| •Pete Haapala | •Huguette Morin | •Gary Weir |
| •Caroline Harrison | •Louise Martel | •Ken Williams |
| •Sarah Hills | •Rudy Nikolaus | |
| •Ron Hodgson | •Lynette Pennings | |

It's not too early to start for next year, so grab your camera and send us your best Killarney vacation pictures. Submissions will be received until November 30, 2002. Don't forget to clearly print on the back of each entry, the photographer's name and address, along with the photograph's title, category, and location in the park.

For more information regarding **forestry practices** in the Killarney area and the province in general, please refer to the Ministry of Natural Resources website at www.mnr.gov.on.ca

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: _____

Cardholder's Signature: _____

For office use only:

Payment Received: _____ Clerk: _____

Date: _____ Card Sent: _____

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Killarney ON P0M 2A0

Tel: (705) 287-2800 Fax: (705) 287-2893
www.friendsofkillarneypark.ca

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY Administrative Assistant

The Friends is seeking a dynamic, enthusiastic individual to assume the duties of Administrative Assistant. The successful candidate will coordinate the administrative and project related duties for the Friends of Killarney Park's charitable activities. This includes managing day-to-day accounting, services to the public and revenue receiving functions for the Friends of Killarney Park.

Specific Duties:

- Maintain accurate, up-to-date computerized accounts, using Simply Accounting software (A/P, A/R, Payroll, and Project Management).
- Maintain and oversee an accurate inventory of all bookstore stock and ensure adequate inventory levels throughout the season.
- Reconcile daily sales summaries and prepare bank deposits.
- Remit all required documentation and reports as required by provincial and federal legislation.
- Maintain accurate accounting/administration duties related to Friends of Killarney Park projects. (Acid Lake Recovery, Campground Rehabilitation and Clean Up, Sponsor-a-Lake)
- Prepare and analyze year-end Financial Statements and assist with the preparation of the annual budget and annual report.
- Determine need and order stationery, and other office, accounting and operating supplies.
- Assist in selecting, training, supervising and monitoring all office and bookstore staff.
- Perform cash sales as required.
- Undertake the duties and responsibilities of the Executive Director as needed.
- Other general operations and overseeing of staff as required.

Qualifications:

- A background in commerce or business administration with an extensive working knowledge of computerized accounting procedures, general bookkeeping and office administration is required;
- Demonstrated interpersonal, listening, communication, facilitating and organizational skills are required;
- Maturity, initiative and the ability to work effectively with modest supervision are essential;
- A basic knowledge of non-profit administration is highly desirable;
- Knowledge of Killarney Provincial Park and associated natural and cultural resources are definite assets and
- Business/Accounting diploma is a definite asset.

This position will run from May 6, 2002 to December 29, 2002. Rate of pay will be \$11.00-\$12.50/hour + 4% vacation pay for 37.5 hours/week for 34 weeks.

Applications required by April 5, 2002. For further details or to apply for the position, contact:

Friends of Killarney Park Attn: Executive Director
Killarney, Ontario (705) 287-2800 - phone
POM 2A0 (705) 287-2893 - fax

We thank all applicants for their interest, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

From One Friend to Another

Friends, indeed.

I keep a photograph over my desk. It's of David and me on top of the crack, with O.S.A. Lake behind us, and happy smiles on our faces. I keep it close by so that when I'm overwhelmed with work, I only have to look up to remember glorious, relaxing days in Killarney Provincial Park.

The park was important to us long before we met. We discovered it in the early 1980s and, as we both tended to take holidays in late August, it's certainly possible that we saw each other hiking along the trails, paddling or portaging, or cooling off in George Lake.

In the nine years since we met, the park has played an increasingly important role in our lives. We visit often enough to warrant a season's pass, and even spent the millennium New Year's Eve camping out in the park under the stars (well, fog, actually). We're at Killarney Mountain Lodge so often that we've taken to calling it "the cottage". And Killarney Outfitters staff have been known to call us "hardcore".

Over the next decade, we plan to explore new parts of the park and – with our newly acquired kayaking skills – venture further out into Georgian Bay. To paraphrase the Ontario tourism tagline, there is still so much to discover.

As I'm writing this, the people in the photograph are smiling back at me. They know that this landscape was there long before they were born, and that Killarney Provincial Park will continue long after they're gone. To me, they look happy to just have this moment together, in one of the most beautiful places in the world.

Julia Moulden is a speechwriter and copywriter. She and her partner, David Dunne, live in Toronto.



Words of Wisdom

From nature doth emotion come
and moods of calmness
William Wordsworth