



# Paddles & Trails

**WINTER 2003**

VOLUME XV  
NUMBER I

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*A splash of colour  
compliments of Journal  
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by Cascade Resources.*

## **Message from the President**

We have certainly been graced with the magic of winter here in Killarney Park and in many parts of Canada and the northern United States. It has been a wonderful time to put down the snow shovel and strap on skis for what has been a paradise for outdoor chilly activities. However, by now, many of you may be planning your summer vacations and dreaming of the incredible treasures found in the Killarney region.

There is a lot of planning going on. We are fortunate to have a very dedicated, experienced, and diverse Board of Directors who have been working extremely hard to represent the best interests of the membership and the Park. Your Directors have accepted the challenge of developing a strategic plan for the Friends of Killarney Park. This is a giant task, especially during these rapidly changing times. We must continue to think into the future and operate the Friends as a dynamic, quality organization. We must be accountable and responsible for the best interests of our members. I would like to personally thank all the directors for their dedication working so tirelessly toward our goals when they could be out hiking or snowshoeing in the beautiful Killarney winter wonderland! Also, thank-you to our Friends staff Dawn, Kris, Andrea, Lara, Michelle, Karen and all our volunteers and members who strive to keep Killarney pristine for the future.

We are all looking forward to the new Visitor Centre which will not only change the physical location of the Friends office, but will bring new opportunities for all visitors to the area. The Board is also seeking out new and creative ways to promote our mandate of protection, preservation, and education. It is important for the Friends to be leaders in education in the park we all have come to love and respect to ensure it will not fall into the journals of environmental disaster due to misuse, ignorance, and a lack of respect.

You can make an incredible difference. It can never be said enough that the strength of our organization is in our membership. We are always on the lookout for new members willing to share their experience and knowledge for the greater good of the park. For example, perhaps you may be able to assist in fundraising, legal advice, graphic design, or would enjoy participating in one of our fantastic rehabilitation weekends. Your skills would dramatically help to move our organization forward in these times when organizations are indebted to its members for their selfless contributions of time, energy, and resources. We are always looking for Board members each year who are willing to carry the torch. It is a very rewarding volunteer experience. If you are interested, please contact Kris at the Park office and he will send you a Director Information Package.

The Friends of Killarney Park are growing in cyberspace! Take a moment to check out the Friends website for updates on our new programs and projects, to order maps, canoe and trail guides, and to keep in touch with us. Our website is an integral component for the future success of the Friends. Check it out at [www.friendsofkillarneypark.ca](http://www.friendsofkillarneypark.ca)

I would love to hear from you! Please send your comments, questions, suggestions, and innovations to me at [friends@friendsofkillarneypark.ca](mailto:friends@friendsofkillarneypark.ca)

Hopefully by now I have you thinking about your Killarney plans for 2003. I would like to remind you to include the Town of Killarney and the surrounding region on your must see and do list for your adventure. Whether it is a traditional visit to Mr. Perch, a hike on George Island, a beverage at one of Killarney's famous Inns (perhaps while doing your laundry), picking up supplies, enjoying an ice cream, a museum excursion, or the annual fish fry – there is lots to do and experience in Killarney- from the Park to Georgian Bay!

I look forward to seeing you at our first event, the Annual Campground Rehabilitation weekend on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Until then, may your plans fulfill your dreams of another healthy and safe Killarney summer to remember.

Your Friend,  
Alan Hills

## Superintendent's Note - Threenarrows Lake Dam Reconstruction

The original dam at Threenarrows Lake, consisted of three separate dam structures adjoined by rock outcrops. It was constructed in the early 1900's to facilitate the driving of logs from this area down to McGregor Bay. The original dam was replaced by three concrete structures in 1934. The dam was 2.7m in height and in recent years a partial failure of the south structure has lowered the water level by 1.4m. Further deterioration of the structure could result in a further lowering of lake water level by 1.3m. A water level change of 2.7m would have effects on the aquatic community of the lake, on patent land owners and on canoeists that rely on the navigable connections between the three main lake basins.

In 1989, the Friends of Killarney Park sponsored an Environmental Youth Corps project to investigate the history, environmental and recreation impacts on Threenarrows Lake if the dam were left unattended. Heather McKee was hired as the project co-ordinator. Heather had previously worked as a volunteer canoe ranger.

The projects principal aim was to prepare a business case to be presented to potential corporate sponsors in order to pursue funding for reconstruction of the dam. In a letter seeking funding, Heather had viewed Threenarrows Lake as "one of the biggest attractions

of the Killarney interior". The Friend's final report was published in February of 1990. It documented the dam history and outlined the potential impacts of the dam failure on fisheries and recreation. The report formed the basis of proposals to bring together partners to rebuild the dam. The necessary funding could not be arranged at that time. The report did however form the historical basis of a new environmental study prepared this January.

The 2003 study evaluates the environmental impacts of four alternatives: do nothing, replace the dam at the current water level, replace the dam at the former water level and decommissioning of the dam. The environmental analysis is indicating that replacing the dam at the current water level is the preferred alternative. Reconstruction of the dam could occur as early as late summer or early fall.

The *Draft Environmental Study Report for the Recommended Reconstruction of the Threenarrows Lake Dam* is available at the park office.

Chuck Miller



### Come Out and Join the Friends for the 9th Annual Campground Rehabilitation and Clean Up Weekend May 2nd – 4th, 2003

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

**Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Check in -  
Start Campsite Clean Ups

**Saturday, May 3** – 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 Presentation

**Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>** – 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 Ranger  
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
- Plastic grocery bags

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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Friends of Killarney Park.  
It is printed three times a year.

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Submissions and suggestions  
are always welcome!



## 5th Annual Christmas Bird Count

Under overcast skies and a brisk southerly breeze blowing, this year's Killarney bird count was attended by 18 participants, including park staff and a large contingent making the drive in from Sudbury. Participants were divided into five groups and by the end of the day a total distance of 126 kilometres was covered by car and 35 kilometres by foot. All together 29 different bird species were observed. Unusual sightings this year included long tailed ducks, snow buntings and a close-up sighting of a great horned owl. Many thanks to all those who participated.

## Fish Stocking Efforts Continue

Last fall on Halloween day George Lake was stocked with 360 lake trout. These large fish, averaging 4 kilograms each, were excess hatchery brood stock from Hill's Lake Fish Culture Station. The introduction is part of a continuing effort to restore healthy fish communities to Killarney Park lakes that are recovering from acidification.



**Wayne Selinger from the Ministry of  
Natural Resources releases adult lake trout.**

## Winter Photography in Killarney

*with Scott Card*

Winter is one of the best times to capture Killarney's beauty on film. As the lakes and creeks begin to freeze, the ice and snow reflect the warm sunlight casted early and late in the day. Far more than other seasons, winter tests a photographer and his or her cameras to the limit. Multiple layers, warm gloves, a toque and proper boots are a must for braving Killarney's backcountry in the winter. You can choose to walk to many destinations, like the beaches in the George Lake campground for example. A relatively easy trek is to the main canoe beach. If you look to the east you will notice a nice little stand of birch trees that really shine at the end of the day. Or, you can be more adventurous and strap on your skis or snowshoes and head into the Park to that perfect island you paddle to in summer months.



Gliding over the snow covered ice of George Lake is a marvelous rush.

As you travel down the familiar narrows of the lake and spill into the larger section you will notice there are no other canoes and noisy campers to contend with! A real feeling of solitude envelops you when you realize you are truly alone in nature. A great spot for creating stunning images is along the south shore of George where numerous frozen waterfalls (from the higher elevated A.Y. Jackson Lake) spill down the granite to form fascinating shapes. If you time your visit at sunset you will be rewarded with marvelous light and color enhancing the ice formations.

Another great location is the lighthouse just outside of the village of Killarney. You can drive your car down Ontario Street and park it at the airport / lighthouse junction and walk the short distance to the lighthouse. Look for snow covered pines, big drifts and lots of ice surrounding the lighthouse. Be sure and visit the Friends of Killarney Park first to check ice and snow conditions.

Dress warm and happy shooting!

*Scott Card is a professional photographer  
who resides in Killarney.*

## The Effect of Rehabilitation on Survival and Behaviour of Orphaned Black Bear Cubs in Central Ontario

In the spring of 2002, Cambrian College's Northern Environmental Heritage Institute (NEHI) embarked on an exciting biological research project in the Killarney area. Dr. Josef Hamr and his research team will be studying the effect of rehabilitation on survival and behaviour of orphaned black bear cubs.

Forty yearling bears (20 males, 20 females) from three central Ontario wildlife rehabilitation shelters were released at various sites off Highway 637. Twenty other rehabilitated bears were released further south in the Grundy Lake area. All bears were radio-collared prior to release in the spring and monitored until denning in the fall. The shelters that participated in the study used variable rehabilitation methods ranging from minimal human contact with cubs and the induction of hibernation in outdoor pens, to daily contact and feeding throughout the winter in an indoor setting. Twelve wild-raised yearlings were captured, ear-tagged and 10 were fitted with radio-collars as a control group. Laurentian University Masters student Matthew Binks and NEHI research technician Ben Cox regularly monitor all collared bears. Data on movement, survival, mortality causes, and nuisance behaviour is being collected. The bears over-wintering strategies are monitored and winter dens are checked for bear survival and physical condition. The monitoring of collared animals will continue until the spring of 2004. As of December 31, 2002 the study has confirmed 25 denning locations with an average post-release movement of 33.7 kilometres. Preliminary results also show nine confirmed mortalities due to; hunting (four), nuisance activity (four) and road kill (one). 8.3% of the rehabilitated animals have exhibited some type of nuisance behaviour.

Standardized guidelines for orphaned bear handling for the purpose of rehabilitation do not exist in North America. A systematic, long-term monitoring study of a large, shelter-aided cohort of yearling black bears returned into the wild has not been conducted to date. Thanks to the generous support of Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, the Ministry of Natural Resources, Laurentian University, and the Friends of Killarney Park, this study will provide information required to make future management decisions.

Please watch this space for future updates!

*Matthew Binks*

### Explore Killarney!

Starting in early January, the Friends of Killarney Park and Ontario Parks have been working together to clear and groom over 30 kilometres of cross country and snow-shoe trails. In early March, all trails were in excellent shape, with abundant snow cover.



**Matthew Binks releasing an orphan bear back into the wild in May 2002.**

### Winter Travel Tips

- If planning to cross lakes, check for the latest ice conditions with park staff. Always be prudent near creek inlets, narrows, dams, and other areas of moving water.
- Do not set up camp on designated summer campsites. Camp in protected low-lying areas, away from shorelines and trails.
- Be prepared for severe cold temperatures. Bring the proper clothing, sleeping bag and other equipment for these conditions.
- In winter, permits are available only at the George Lake campground.

# Donors and Supporters

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 the Friends of Killarney Natural Heritage Trust. We thank the following donors who supported Friends of Killarney Park in 2002.

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Killarney Mountain Lodge and Outfitters  
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# The View From Here

By Ann of George Island

They arrive in small, medium, and large sailing yachts. They arrive in small, medium and large motor yachts, hoping for safe haven at my small marina on George Island across from the small isolated village of Killarney. This discourse will describe boaters. They are as varied in character and disposition as the boats in which they sail. One common denominator is myself, the owner of the place.

I rule my boaters with an iron hand, hopefully usually enclosed in a velvet glove. I charge up and down the hill from my house wearing bare feet and ragged jeans. Once docked, I welcome my guests, orient them to my marina and its environs, give a quick tour guide of the village of Killarney and advise them of its multitudinous pleasures. Megabucks boaters meekly accept and follow my directions. When they are back on board, it is not uncommon for one to hear, “Ann says we should —”

Most of my guests are gracious and ready to be pleased once they are docked. When preparing to dock it is a different story!

Questions yelled from the Channel:

“What’s the water depth?”

“Enough trust me”

“Is there electricity on the docks?”

“Affirmative!” (That sounds nice and nautical)

“Are you sure we can fit into that well?”

“Trust me” (That sounds confident)

“What are your rates”

“The lowest in Killarney” (For the lords sake just get in here)

One stands on the dock waiting for the first line to be thrown, legs slightly apart, arms akimbo exuding confidence and thinking, “I hope I can dock them safely. Watch the wind and current Ann. It will throw them wide of the dock.” Once docked the anxious skipper changes personality completely, is relaxed and in holiday mode once more.



VIGNETTE-The docks were pretty full when a sailboat hailed me for dockage. There was a good sea running from the west and this cat was 52’ long and approaching from the east. I needed some help. I rounded up some muscle, nice and bronzed, “Four chaps and I ought to cope” thought I showing the skipper the direction to approach. “Don’t tell me what to do lady! I’ve been doing this for forty years!” he yelled back. The muscle and I looked at each other dumbfounded. I had a choice-I could drop my hands and walk away or I could dock the boat and make him pay. We warped the man in with the help of bronzed boaters. The skipper jumped onto the dock. The muscle hung around saying nothing. It was great. I felt like the godmother with her lieutenants. I quietly introduced myself and welcomed the man to George Island. Then I asked him if he would speak to me like that ever again. He looked at me and looked at the muscle and said “No I won’t.” Then I dropped my hands and walked up the hill. One of the muscle approached the man later and said “No one talks to Ann like that.”



Then there was the small boy whose parents owned a sleek black cigarette boat. He would wait for my doors to open in the morning and hop in, pyjama tops never quite meeting the bottoms, clutching a rubber alligator firmly. He always asked if he could pick veggies from my garden. I’d give him a bag and off we’d go. He had this big problem. The bag was in one hand and King Allie in the other. How was he to pick veggies? I offered to hold King Allie. Problem solved. The last morning, just before leaving up he came and announced “I know the difference between a man and a woman.” Expecting some startling revelation, I asked “What is the difference?” “This morning I asked if I could pick vegetables and my mom said “Yes” and my dad said “Definitely not” and that’s just the way they are.

Another day was the day of the dog. Feature six-yes six golden retrievers, a springer spaniel which gave new meaning to the word “springer”, and a few assorted schauzers plus a black lab-Pepper visiting from a nearby cottage. Dogs and children had a marvellous time on the beach and in the water. My veg garden was looking slightly ravaged and I was slightly weary by 8pm-a lot of heaving and hauling. Preparing to retire for the night I suddenly remembered that I had left my VHF hand held radio somewhere on the docks. I promptly leaped down the hill and trotted along the dock searching. One boater leaned over the rail and said “What’s up Ann” “I want my hand held.” Four chaps, urged on by their wives, jumped off boats and tried to hold my hand. Flapping furiously at them, I yelled “I don’t want my hand held, I want my HAND HELD.” The next morning I awoke to find only one running shoe of mine by the front door. “Retrievers” I thought. I belted down to the dock to yell “Scuse me, does anyone have an extra running shoe?” The shoe was dully retrieved. ... *Continued on page 8*

## Between Friends

By Mike Lavin  
Natural Heritage Leader

**K**illarney certainly isn't the most isolated place on the planet. There have been times, though, where after a few weeks of not leaving the park I've begun to wonder whether highway 637 really exists beyond the turn in the road. After two years of living in the park, I've had many occasions to both enjoy and dislike my isolation.

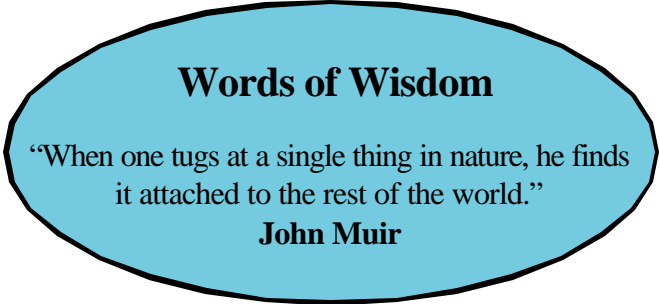
The part that I wish I could share with more people is ironically something that I couldn't share with any of you. It's a feeling that I get when I'm on my own in a place like Killarney. When I'm alone in nature I can feel both childlike and ancient, fleeting and timeless, a small part of something huge and mysterious. This feeling happens most often when most of you are not here. In the autumn, winter and early spring Killarney Park undergoes a transformation. It becomes a quieter, almost magical place.

Empty campsites covered in fallen leaves look like relics of some bygone era. The campground in October and November is almost barren of even the feeling of people. The murmur of campers is supplanted by wind in the trees and the sound of waves lapping on George Lake. I'm reminded of my small place in this huge community. Autumn feels solemn and otherworldly. On a cold sunny day the turning of the great wheel seems to pause.

In winter, snow covering park roads hides the tracks left by car tires and leaves a clean sheet for recording the footsteps of abundant wildlife. Animals that went unnoticed in the summer can't help but show their passing in the winter. The snow becomes another page of an ancient and timeless story. The telltale scurries of mice, left by the descendants of a thousand generations of resident mice, are words on that page. In winter encountering a mouse track can be a humbling experience and the mighty howl of a wolf sends shivers down ones spine.

This year spring began just yesterday (February 17<sup>th</sup>) with the hopeful song of a White-winged Crossbill announcing its amorous spring intentions. Behind this herald the white cliffs of the La Cloche Mountains glowed pink in the dawning sun. The living earth smiled upon another day, another beginning.

I've been warned many times against openly sharing the location of my favourite places. Popularity can be an enemy of a charming place. Anglers will know what I'm talking about. But I couldn't resist this time and if I'm correct in my reckoning, good will come of it. Wilderness like that found in Killarney has a great power to evoke feelings of kinship and stewardship. I trust in this power and the many friendships it has fostered.



## MEMBERSHIP: JOIN OR RENEW TODAY

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

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

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

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Telephone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

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

### Annual Membership

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

### Corporate Sponsorship

- \_\_\_ \$100.00 Granite Ridge
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- \_\_\_ \$300.00 La Cloche

In addition to my membership

I wish to donate:

\$100 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$30 \_\_\_ other \_\_\_

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## From One Friend to Another

I have seen many places in my travels, in my search for wonder and adventure. I've flown around the world, climbed over mountains, paddled across waters, and hiked through distant terrain. All to find more magic in a place that was always in my own backyard, than anywhere else I had been.

I have yet to see a landscape that compares to Killarney. A freshwater fjord, musical bogs, yellow birch, barred owls, silver peaks, striped maple, stunning sunsets, snapping turtles, bullfrogs, moose, wolf, sandy pink granite, crystal blue lakes, jack pines, loons, rattlesnakes, quartzite ridges, beaver lodges, river otters...and I could go on and on.

During spring, summer and fall of 2001, I had the pleasure of sharing the secrets of this place with many explorers from far and wide, as I guided various trips in the area. The reactions I saw to these places we visited, consistently reminded me to appreciate all of the amazing things that I often forgot to see because they were in front of me all of the time. Watching the view from The Crack fill a weary hiker with energy, would make me really breathe it in again - like it was my first time up there. And preparing for the morning canoe trip as the mist rose over George Lake would always take everyone's breath away, and remind me to pause and look at it.

I still spend at least one weekend a month in Killarney (maybe because I hung my Killarney Calendar in my kitchen and I am constantly looking at another good reason to go back).

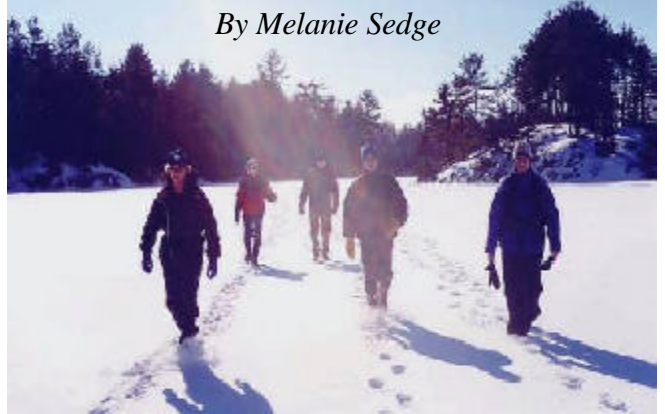
The solitude of winter has quickly become one of my favourite times to explore Killarney. It has a quiet majesty then. When its peaks actually are white because of snow, and my skis take me to places in a day that would usually take a few to reach during summer. When the view from the top of Granite Ridge showcases a frosty blue Georgian Bay, and when crossing frozen lakes will let you get to Heaven and back in a day.

Even though Mr. Perch is closed for the season, many other businesses in the town of Killarney are open, making it an exciting place to be in the winter. After an exhausting day of skiing, or snow-shoeing in the backcountry, a hot chocolate or a cold beverage with friends at the Sportsman's Inn is a great way to cap off the day. And if I have any energy left, there's always dancing at the Killarney Bay Inn later on!

For me, exploring Killarney is a special way to appreciate a unique part of Canada all year round. But in winter especially, this magical place reminds me that I need venture no further than my own backyard to discover all the wonder and adventure I have been looking for...because I live in the most beautiful and wondrous country in the world!

### When Heaven Freezes Over

By Melanie Sedge



On the way to Heaven Lake, Winter 2002

#### ....Continued from page 6

One cold day in the summer there was a forecast of foul weather and a good sea coming from the west. The radio went berserk as everyone wished dockage. People walked all over each other's transmissions and some were positively rude. My docks were potentially filled by 10 am. At this point the toilet in the bathroom cracked and I had a massive flood. As I dashed up and down the hill casting off and docking boats while mapping the docks mentally, I thought "Why me Lord?" On one of these forays, I was loping through the house and noticed a skipper sitting at the sewing machine with a mound of blue canvas. "My dodger zipper ripped and my girlfriend is arriving and it's going to rain. Please sew it for me Ann." Restraining the flood of incipient foul language, I replied, "I'm too busy. Do it yourself. Here's some thread and a needle." Half an hour later he was still sitting there, looking hopeful. "I'm not sewing Ken and it's no good sitting there looking wimpy. Go and take your dodger and your long face back to your boat and stop littering up my house. I'm busy."

The same day, toward evening I had to fight tooth and nail for the last remaining space reserved for a 57' Chriscraft - a regular. Boats arrived and docked themselves. "Go away, this is reserved," politeness having fled around noon. "I'll only be a couple of minutes" (This means 2hrs minimum.) Finally, Joe radioed in. "Ann, I hope that my well is still open?" "Your slip is ready and waiting for you Joe." "You don't know how glad I am to hear you say that. I'm coming home Ann. ETA is 15 minutes." After docking Joe I closed my doors and went to bed to sleep the sleep of the just and the weary.

In the evenings I sign off the VHF by saying "This is the George Islanders signing off for the night. God bless everyone and good night." - a nice gesture I thought. One evening a disembodied voice came back from anywhere in a 20 mile radius saying, "Ann you are weird." Becoming annoyed, I answered, "I am not weird I'm beautiful." "Yes Ann you are beautiful but you are also very weird." What can I say?