

Killarney

2006 Information Guide

Superintendent's Welcome

I would like to personally wish you a warm welcome to Killarney Provincial Park for our 2006 season and beyond. Our goal is to make your stay here as safe, enjoyable, and as memorable as possible.

You may notice a few changes in the Village of Killarney - a recycling program was initiated for 2006 and as such we are now able to offer recycling services. A recycling bin has been established near the garbage shed in the vicinity of the comfort station. You may see a large new grey brick building in the village of Killarney - this is the new water treatment plant. With the new plant comes the lifting of the boil water advisory that had previously existed in the community. A new Killarney Health Centre has also been constructed beside the Municipal Office. Fund raising for this community service is ongoing - "thank you" to all those that supported this facility financially.

For those camping in the Park, or those just visiting for the day, be sure to check our Natural Heritage Education events calendar for upcoming programs that promise to be both fun and educational for the whole family. From interpretive hikes to art in the park, from programs specifically for children to nighttime guest speakers, our NHE department has a program that will be sure to interest and inspire. NHE staff are also available at the park office or at the "Ask the Naturalist Booth" if you have any ques-



Early morning at David Lake.

Photo: Warren Sweeney

tions related to the natural and cultural aspects of the Killarney area.

In the fall of 2005 park staff surveyed future canoe routes in the proposed wilderness additions to Killarney Provincial Park and the adjacent Killarney Headwaters and Lakelands (natural environment class). Once these parks are regulated the new portages and campsites will be established and marked on the ground and on a new park map anticipated for 2007. Some trails

already exist in these new areas including snowmobile trails that cross frozen ponds and wetlands so caution is advised if you are planning to explore these areas in advance of regulation. Both these parks are continuing to move toward regulation as Provincial Parks. The proposed Killarney Coast and Islands (waterway class) is currently subject to a statement of claim which continues to be negotiated.

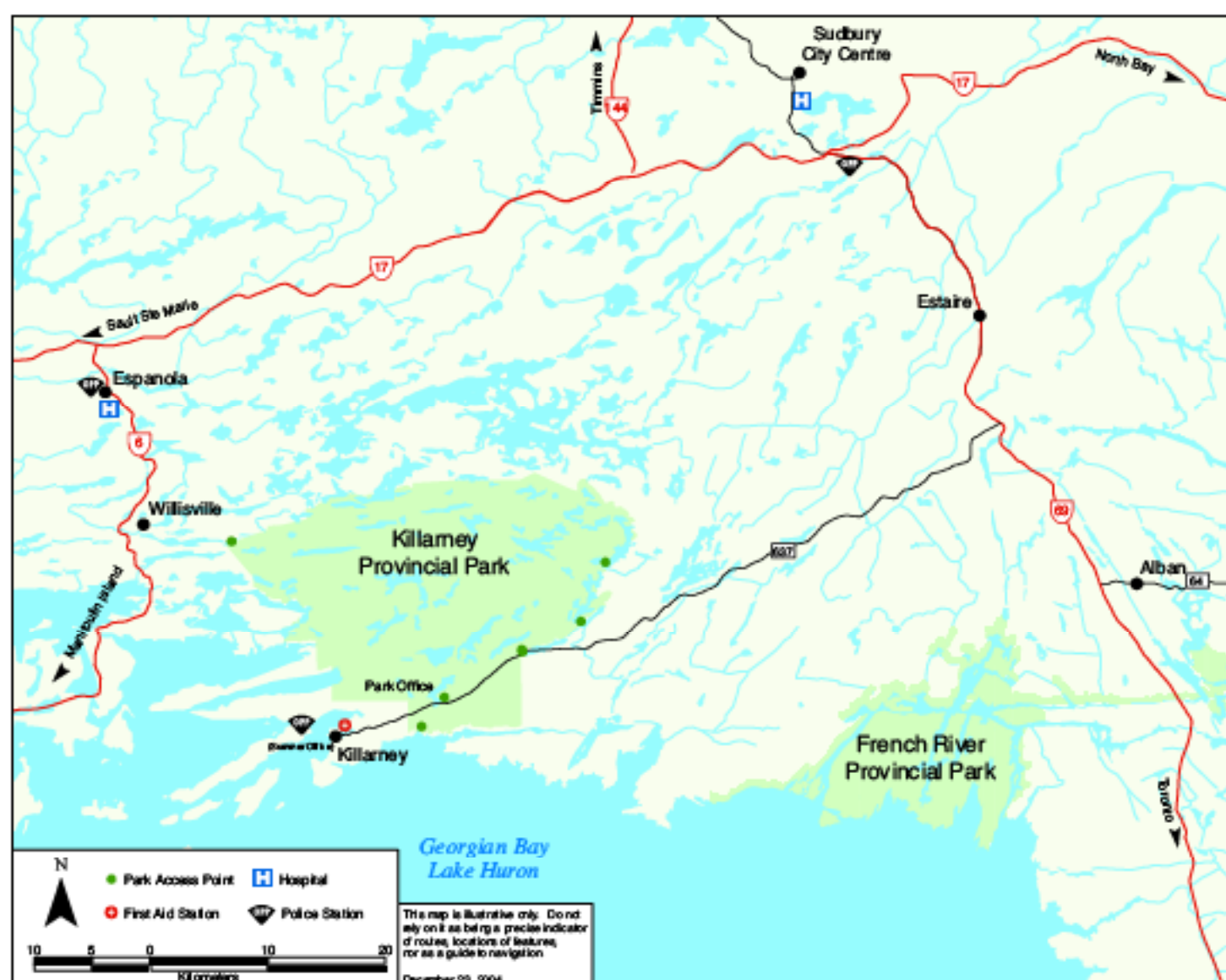
For information on Killarney Provincial

Park, or Ontario Parks in general, please visit us on-line at www.OntarioParks.com or call the park information line at 705-287-2900. You should also feel free to stop and talk any staff member. We are here to serve you and ensure the park resources are managed for future generations.

Chuck Miller
Park Superintendent

Your Park Permit must be visible on the dash of your vehicle. See page 3 for a more detailed list on our rules and regulations.

Map of Killarney Area



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Killarney Provincial Park
Killarney, Ontario P0M 2A0
1-888-668-7275 (reservations)
(705) 287-2900 (park information)
www.ontarioparks.com

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Village of Killarney "Year 'Round"

Welcome

Welcome to the wonderful village of Killarney, located only a short 10 km ride past the park's campground. We are renowned for our hospitality and friendliness. Stop and talk to the town folks—they'll enlighten you on the history of our village, which dates back to 1820.

We provide basic services, groceries, camping supplies, lodges, restaurants and take out, laundromats, liquor store, police, church, garages for cars and marine, and an airstrip with a 3500 foot runway.

There's lots to do in every season!

Summer Activities:

In July and August stroll the docks and see the beautiful yachts travelling our waters. Our Community Centre has basketball nets, a tennis court and space to roller-blade. For a totally new adventure try the 7.5 km George Island Trail, which takes you past beaver ponds, over ridges and along George Island's Georgian Bay coast. Take the Sportsman's Inn's "Tinkerbell Ferry" to reach the trailhead.

Looking for some Georgian Bay scenery? You'll get a great view from Killarney's historic East Lighthouse.

Ready for some Georgian Bay swimming? Try Pine Island Channel at the town's unsupervised public swimming beach, located on Perry Avenue, just off the highway before reaching town.

Winter Activities:

Snowmobile trails tie into the Sudbury and Alban Trail Plan, and marked trails lead over the ice to Manitoulin-Spanish, and the North Channel. The area is also a great winter destination for hardy winter campers and skiers. In winter, the Community Centre's two rinks host curling, recreational skating and hockey. The service building offers washrooms, a pool table and video games, as well as a small cantina and eating area.

We invite you to visit us in Killarney...by boat, air-plane, foot, car, canoe, kayak, snowmobile—we're here to welcome you...year 'round!

Sincerely

Mayor Laurier J. Low

- | Government | Local Businesses | |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. OPP Station | 11. Killarney Bay Inn + | 20. The Pines Inn + |
| 2. Community Centre | 12. Roche Rouge Campground | 21. Gateway Marina *** |
| 3. Municipal Grounds | | 22. Killarney Marine & Rigging |
| 4. Municipal Building, Post Office & Health Centre | 14. Connie Mart | 23. Channel Marina |
| 5. Ambulance Shed | 15. Killarney Auto & Marine | 25. The Quarterdeck |
| 6. Fire Hall | 16. Blue Heron B&B | 26. Herbert Fisheries + |
| 7. Museum | 17. Roque's Marina ** | 27. Pitfield's General Store * |
| 8. Old Jail | 18. A & R Marina | 28. Rock House Inn |
| 9. Boat Launch | 19. Sportsman's Inn + | 29. Killarney Mountain Lodge + |
| 10. LCBO / Beer Store | | 30. George Islanders Marina |



Killarney Snowmobile Club News: Ride With "The Pack"

Situated directly on the Trans Ontario Provincial (TOP) Trail C107D, Killarney is your Trail-Head to North Channel destinations such as Spanish, Blind River and Drummond Island, Michigan; with staked ice trails to Manitoulin Island and direct trail access to the French River and the Sudbury area trail systems. Killarney's 100 plus kilometers of trails are kept in "TOP" shape by a new Bombardier BR 180 groomer.

Killarney is a full service snowmobile community with all the essentials for the serious or first time snowmobiler. Accommodation, premium fuel, mechanical service, a LCBO and a general store are all easily accessible by sled.

Please note snowmobiling is not allowed within the boundaries of Killarney Provincial Park other than on the designated C107D trail corridor running just south of Hwy 637.

For more information on snowmobiling in Killarney, current trail and ice conditions, trail passes, or for snowmobile club events, please call — — — (705) 287-2411 or (705) 287 2011.

Why drive when you can ride!!

Killarney Volunteer Fireman's weekend.

July 29th and 30th, 2006
Located at the Killarney Community Centre (number 2 on above map)

Outdoor Dance

July 29th, 2006

8 pm. to 1 am.

A licenced event, age of majority required.

Fish-Fry

July 30th, 2006

Noon to 8 pm.

Show up under the big top for large portions of locally caught fish with all the extras. BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY. A licensed event with excellent food, music, dancing and games for the kids.

The Killarney Health Centre is Open

Monday to Friday
9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon & 1:00-5:00 p.m

If possible, please visit the clinic during office hours, as a nurse may not always be available outside of the posted times.

For appointments or advice, call 287-2300. After hours please listen to instructions on the answering machine.

The Killarney Health Centre is funded by the Ministry of Health, but donations to the Centre are appreciated. Money raised helps to purchase much needed equipment, allowing us to provide a better service to the community and to the visiting public.

Medical emergencies —dial 911. George Lake Campground is Location #954 - Hwy 637.

A Message from the Municipality of Killarney

No Loitering at the Killarney Landfill Site

Only ratepayers who are dumping garbage are allowed at the Killarney Landfill site, and immediately after completing the task, they must leave the area.

The bears feeding at the site are disturbed by the presence of humans, particularly those who harass them or try to feed them. A bear's natural reaction to such disturbances cannot be controlled.

For the safety of all, the Municipality will not permit loitering at the landfill site.

Thanks for your co-operation.

Emergency Phone Numbers

Pay phones are located outside the park office and near the Killarney Liquor Store. George Lake Campground is located on #960 -Hwy. 637

Police/Fire/Ambulance:

In Killarney: 911

In Espanola: (705) 869-4240, or 911 from most North Shore locations.

Sudbury Regional Hospital

(705) 674-3181 — 24 hour service

Espanola General Hospital

(705) 869-1420 — 24 hour service

Poison Control Centre

1 - 800 - 267-1373 — 24 hour service

Nurse-Killarney Health Centre

(705) 287-2300

Ontario Provincial Police

1-888-310-1122

Park Office

(705) 287-2900

Forest Fire Reporting

1-888-863-FIRE (3473)

First Aid Kits are found at the park office and in park vehicles. Contact park staff for assistance.

Things You Should Know



General Information

1. **Permits must be renewed before 12:00 noon on their expiry date.** Unrenewed sites are made available to arriving visitors waiting to get a campsite. Park staff are not responsible for late renewal requests.

2. **Campsites must be vacated no later than 2:00 p.m. on their expiry date.** You are welcome to stay in the park on a day-use basis until 10:00 p.m. on your departure date.

3. **Collection of deadfall wood is not permitted in the campground.** Bagged firewood and kindling can be purchased from The Outpost in the park office at George Lake campground. In the park interior, use stoves for cooking. If you do need a fire, gather wood along your paddling route, so as not to trample the backwoods area surrounding campsites. Unnecessary burning of firewood is the biggest impact to Killarney's backcountry, so do your part to minimize your

impact on the parks ecosystem.

4. **Day trippers, do not occupy interior campsites while hiking or canoeing.** These sites are reserved for interior campers.

5. **Leave soap at your campsite.** For sanitation reasons do not wash dishes at water taps in the campground. Also we ask that you do not bathe in the parks lakes, as biodegradable soap is only biodegradable on land. Dispose of soapy water at least 60m (200') back from shorelines.

6. **Do not feed wildlife.** To discourage food-motivated visits, never feed wildlife and keep all food, garbage and scented items (toothpaste, shampoo, soap) in the trunk of your vehicle at night, as well as anytime you are away from your site. Garbage, in sealed bags should be deposited daily in the garbage shed located in the campground. *See map, page 20.*

7. **Beaches are not patrolled by lifeguards.** Parents: children are your responsibility and should not be allowed near water unless directly supervised by an adult.

8. **If you are camping on Crown Land** and are not a Canadian resident, you require a Crown Land camping permit (available at the George Lake park office).

9. **Fishing Licences** are available at most area businesses. Fishing regulations are available at the park office. Note: Special fishing regulations apply within the park and the use of live bait-fish is banned.

10. **Bell Lake access point** is now operated by Ontario Parks' staff. Hours of operation are the last Friday in June to Labour Day: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. At all other times, reservation permits must be picked up at the George Lake park office. Note: All park users require a valid park

permit, including day use.

11. **Showers/laundry facilities** are now located in the park campground. *See map, page 20.*

12. **A trailer dumping station** is located off Hwy 637. Follow the 2nd road to your left after exiting eastward from the park entrance. *See map, page 20.*

13. **Waste and recyclables.** Garbage should be deposited daily at the garbage shed located in the vicinity of the comfort station. Recycling services are now available in Killarney. Rinsed recyclables can be deposited in the recycling bins near the garbage shed.

14. **Weather Reports.** Updated Killarney and Georgian Bay marine weather from Environment Canada is posted daily at the George Lake Office. Weather warnings are updated and posted as they are issued by Environment Canada.

Regulations—Park Interior and Campground

Killarney Provincial Park is a 48,500 hectare Wilderness Park situated on the north shore of Georgian Bay. In Killarney, park visitors meet with endless opportunities to improve recreational skills while experiencing nature at her best.

The following regulations will help you get the most out of your stay and help us protect this unique landscape.

These rules apply to all visitors using the park campground and park interior. Please note: Within a Provincial Park, a Park Warden has all the power and authority of a Police Officer.

1. **Respect park resources.** Natural objects such as plants and trees, rock formations and archaeological artifacts are for all to enjoy. Do not remove, damage or deface them. Cutting of live vegetation is prohibited. Do not remove bark from living trees, or put nails into them. Respect wildlife! Do not disturb them, or damage their habitat.

Note that some areas located in the park are closed for rehabilitation purposes. These sites are marked with a large No Camping sign and are not designated as sites on the current official topographic park map.

2. **The Can and Bottle Ban is in effect for all interior travellers, including day trippers.** Obtain a litter bag when you get your interior camping permit. All non-burnable refuse must be packed out. The regulation restricting cans and bottles in the park interior is enforced without exception.

3. **Fires may only be built in established firepits provided on designated campsites.** At your campsite do not build additional firepits, or collect rocks to place around the existing firepit. Elsewhere, fires may not be built in any other areas of the park, including along hiking trails, shorelines or portages.

4. **Interior Camping is only permitted at designated campsites.** You may only camp at sites identified by a diamond-shaped orange marker with a black tent symbol. The park map indicates canoe-in sites with a red triangle and hiking trail sites with a green triangle. Backcountry travellers must camp on sites or lakes indicated on their registered route plan. Some campsites are closed or relocated from year to year. If your map is 2003 or older consult the latest edition or talk with staff to find out about any changes.

In the unlikely event that:

- (a) for canoeists: all the campsites on your lake are full; or
- (b) for hikers: another group has taken your campsite,

camp off-site on a rocky area where your impact will be minimized, and do not build any fires or cut any vegetation. It is important that you do not move onto another campsite or lake, as this will displace yet another group. Please report this situation to park staff at your first opportunity. Note: it is your responsibility to ensure all campsites are occupied before camping offsite.



All designated interior sites are marked with an orange and black campsite marker.

5. **Excessive noise is not allowed at any time.** Respect your neighbour's right to privacy and solitude. It is the beauty of Killarney.

6. **Maximum number of campers per site** is 6 in the campground, 6 on the hiking trail, and 9 on the canoe-in sites, (with a maximum of 6 recommended). These limits help protect campsites from overuse...the more people on a site, the more the surrounding vegetation is trampled.

7. **Pets must always be leashed, and are not allowed in public swimming areas.** Pets may swim beside the George Lake dam, or in Chikanish Creek. Pets must be leashed in all interior areas, including trails and portages.



Killarney is home to many types of wildlife. Please keep it beautiful.

8. **Keep campsites clean and litter-free at all times.** Remove bottle caps, tinfoil, foodscraps and other unburned items from the area, including the firepits, before vacating your site. In the campground you are responsible for placing garbage in the Garbage Bin. *See map, page 20.*

In the park interior, all garbage must be packed out. **Never dump food or garbage in interior privies.**

9. **Ontario Liquor Laws apply in this park.** Liquor may be consumed at your campsite only. Liquor is prohibited in beach, picnic and other public areas.

10. **Mountain Bikes are not allowed on park hiking trails.** Mountain bikes may be used on all campground roads, on Chikanish Creek road, and on many trails and roads outside the park. Johnnie Lake Road and Bell Lake Road are some options. For more information contact the park office.

11. **Mechanized travel**, including snowmobiles, ATV's and motorboats is generally prohibited in the park.

12. **Campsite & Vehicle Permits must be renewed before 12:00 noon. Campsites must be vacated by 2:00 p.m. on the day of your departure.** Please be prompt. Failure to vacate your site on time will result in an additional day's camping fee being charged. If you wish to stay in the park after vacating your site, move your vehicle to a parking area. Your campsite permit entitles you to use day-use facilities until 10:00 p.m. on your departure date.

The complete schedule of Provincial Park Regulations is available for review in the park office upon request.

Special Fishing Regulations

To protect introduced lake trout populations until they become self-sustaining, the angling season for lake trout has been closed in many lakes. Angling for other species is still allowed in those lakes during the seasons outlined in the Provincial Fishing Regulations. If lake trout are accidentally captured they must be released.

Lakes with lake trout season closures: Bell, Three mile, Carlyle, George, Johnnie (incl. Crooked/Brush Camp), and Kakakise.

As part of the restoration plan, some lakes have been designated as fish sanctuaries where no fishing is allowed.

Sanctuary lakes (No Fishing):

Acid, Amikogaming, A.Y. Jackson, Boundary, Burke, Clearsilver, David, de Lamorandiere, Grace, Great Mountain, Killarney, Lumsden, Muriel, Nellie, Norway, O.S.A., Partridge, Roque, Ruth-Roy, Sandy, Solomon, Whiskeyjack.

Provincial Fishing Regulation Guides are available at the park office.



Interior Can & Bottle Ban

Killarney Provincial Park has a Can & Bottle Ban to help control litter and to promote good tripping ethics.

Packing without Cans & Bottles

Packing foods that do not require cans or bottles doesn't have to be expensive. Grocery stores offer many lightweight, nutritious, and delicious foods that can be used on a can and bottle free camping trip.

For long trips, look for products that are fast cooking and dehydrated, to cut down on weight. Examples are instant potatoes, dry soups and sauce mixes, fruit drink crystals, quick cooking rice and grains, and pasta.

Consider bringing along some fresh vegetables, fruit and eggs, to be used in the early days of your trip. If wrapped well, frozen meat should also keep for a day or two. Always use caution when considering bringing eggs and meats. If the weather calls for extremely warm temperatures you may want to reconsider, or use these items up over your first couple of meals. Spicy meats, such as salami or pepperoni, are often a good choice as they keep longer, and small amounts mixed into a meal go a long way in terms of taste.

Sample Menu Ingredients

Breakfasts

- instant oatmeal, cold cereal
- dried or fresh fruit
- pancake mix
- coffee, tea
- sugar
- fruit drink crystals
- powdered eggs
- jam or honey

Lunches

- dense, durable breads such as crispbreads, or pumpnickel
- crackers
- margarine
- cheese
- dill pickles
- well-spiced sausage
- peanut butter
- nuts and dried fruit
- fruit drink crystals

Suppers

- dried soups
- instant potatoes
- dry gravy mixes
- quick cooking rice
- pasta
- couscous
- cheese
- coffee, tea, hot chocolate
- fresh meat (first day of trip)
- freeze dried entrees



We ask for your co-operation and support for this regulation, and encourage you to adopt it not because it is required by law, but because it is an excellent camping practice.

Please Note

All containers must be burnable.

The exceptions:

- metal foil containers
- fuel containers
- insect repellent containers
- personal toilet articles
- reusable plastic bottles
- medications in bottles
- infant formula in cans

The Can & Bottle Ban applies without exception to all interior areas of Killarney Provincial Park. Cans and bottles are only allowed in George Lake Campground, and in parking areas of interior access points. **This regulation applies to all Campground and Day Use visitors when out for a day paddle, or when hiking on any park trail.** Books on planning menus without canned or bottled foods are available at good outdoor recreation stores.

A heartfelt THANK-YOU from Ontario Parks

Last year, we asked you to help us reduce waste and keep our parks clean by taking your used, non-refillable propane cylinders with you, when your Ontario Parks visit is over. We were bowled over by your response.

In 2005, we collected about 24,000 empty propane cylinders throughout our parks system. That's still a lot of expensive garbage to get rid of – but it's only *half* the number of cylinders we collected in 2004. Thank-you! Used, non-refillable propane containers are considered "hazardous waste," so we can't just take them to the local landfill. We have to hire firms that specialize in recycling this kind of material. At \$2.50 per cylinder, it

costs us almost as much to get rid of the cylinders as it does for you to buy them.

By reducing our disposal costs for these cylinders, we're able to devote more of your park fees to improvements such as new picnic tables, fire-place grills and children's playground equipment.

So keep up the good work! Please don't use disposable propane canisters. Convert to regular refillable propane tanks, or choose equipment that uses camp fuel. If you must use non-refillable canisters, please take them home with you and dispose of them at your local hazardous waste depot. And again, thank you!



Education that's Nearby,

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- A wonderful website - a natural choice for kids, teachers and parents
- Geared to Grades 2 through 6
- Based on the themes of science & technology, social studies, math and language
- Lots of engaging, ready-to-print lesson plans and activity sheets for teachers
- Eye-popping 3D fun with interactive games and activities for kids
- Information for parents and teachers about how to plan fun and educational trips to provincial parks
- And so much more!

Visit www.Campsite24.ca or www.OntarioParks.com

FIRE ALERT!



Forest fires cost Ontarians millions of dollars. Each year about 200,000 hectares of forest habitat is destroyed by fire.

In Killarney, fires are only allowed in established firepits on designated campsites. Never leave your campfire unattended, and never smoke while hiking – if you do and a forest fire results, you could be fined or be held responsible for the cost of extinguishing the fire. During a Restricted Fire Zone you must show your cookstove before receiving your backcountry permit. To report forest fires, contact the park office, or call 1-888-863-FIRE (3473).



DON'T LET WILDFIRES BE YOUR FAULT!



Toll free:
1-888-461-4446
Locally:
(705) 287-2197

We rent a full range of canoes and camping equipment, including Souris River ultralights, Scott lightweight kevlar, regular kevlar and fiberglass canoes, as well as regular and ultralight solos.

Our main location is at Bell Lake,
with free deliveries to George, Johnny & Carlyle access points.

Check out the KPP map on our website!

www.killarneykanoes.com email: info@killarneykanoes.com
Mike Malott

WE NOW RECYCLE!



Services available at
George Lake Campground
Near the Garbage Shed
And in the
Town of Killarney

Low Impact Backcountry Camping



When you visit Killarney you want to find untouched forests and clean lakes. Imagine arriving at your site only to find extra fire pits, garbage and trampled vegetation. It's up to all of us to practise low-impact camping. Here are some backcountry basics we all need to remember when visiting wild places.

Home Sweet Home

Set up tents and gear on the impacted area of your site. If a tent pad is provided use it. Avoid trampling backside areas, creating new tent pads and trails.

If you need a campfire, gather dead wood as you paddle or hike, to avoid depleting the area surrounding your site. On site, give the plants and your feet a break. Change into a pair of sneakers. They don't tear up soil and plants like the lug soles found on hiking boots.

Go jump in the lake... but not with your soap! If soap is a must, choose biodegradable. Jump in the water, lather up onshore at least 60 metres from water, and get an "unsoaped" buddy to come and rinse you off with a pot. Remember...biodegradable soap is *only* biodegradable on land, not in the water!

Table Talk

Did you know that meals are a lot quicker to prepare on a stove than over a campfire? And remember, stoves create little or no impact on a site, something we all have to think about in heavily used areas like Killarney.

Stoves start in any conditions. They can quickly

provide a cup of soup or tea, and you can be on your way. Campfires have a certain lure, but the quest for wood results in serious damage to vegetation around sites. If you have a fire, gather small pieces of dead wood as you travel. Keep your fire small. Fires may only be built in the established firepit on designated campsites. Burn your fire to embers and drown it before you go to bed. During a Fire Ban all fires are prohibited. In this case you must show a stove to obtain your permit.

Pack it Out!

Cans and bottles are not allowed in Killarney's interior. Past experience shows that they often get left behind...an unsightly souvenir for the next camper who comes along. Repack food in reusable containers and plastic bags... it packs smaller and weighs less.

Pack out or completely burn all food waste. Never bury food scraps—animals dig them up, learning bad habits. Sometimes, as in the case of bears, this creates public safety problems. Never throw fish guts in water; place them well away from your site, on a rocky area where birds can scavenge them.

The Scoop on Poop!

It's not fun to talk about, but it's better to

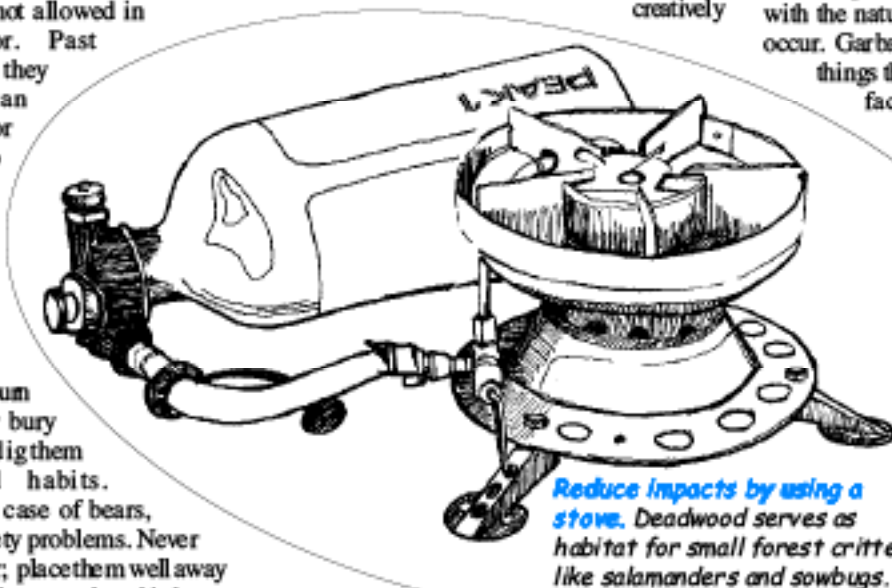
talk about it than end up stepping in it! Human waste, toilet paper, tampons, sanitary napkins, and disposable diapers are sometimes found strewn about the park. Most interior sites have marked side trails leading to box privies, but if you are caught short with no privy nearby: 1. move 60 meters (at least 80 paces) away from lakeshores, sites, rivers, trails, etc.; 2. dig a hole 6" (15 cm) deep; 3. use it; 4. cover it back in well with the dirt you removed; 5. make sure that no trace of your "visit" remains. Use as little toilet paper as possible. Many people creatively

and pack 'em out! While this sounds like a "messy" practice it isn't really that bad, and it is the only responsible thing to do. The multiple layers and plastic in these products have no place in the bush or privies, and will sit there for years before they biodegrade!

Treasure Chest Etiquette... As one wise person said "The only thing that should go into box privies on interior campsites is what comes out of you, and single ply toilet paper". It's true! Treat interior privies like composting toilets—plastics and other materials interfere with the natural decomposition that needs to occur. Garbage, diapers, and other creative things that end up in box privies fill these facilities up, leaving no room for "what's supposed to be in there". In case you were wondering, park staff have to unearth those treasures that shouldn't be there in the first place. Think about it!

One Last Glance...

When you go, leave your site better than when you arrived. By packing out twist ties, rubber bands, tinfoil and other garbage left by previous campers, you can help maintain Killarney's campsites, and ensure your future enjoyment of Killarney's backcountry.



Reduce impacts by using a stove. Deadwood serves as habitat for small forest critters like salamanders and sowbugs.

use pine cones, sticks, etc. which can be buried in the hole. As for tampons, sanitary napkins, and disposable diapers...triple bag them in plastic

The Great Canadian Wilderness Challenge!

Wilderness Survival—is this the ability of humans to survive the wilderness, or the ability of wilderness to survive humans? All too often, our passage through natural areas can leave permanent traces.

Why not take the Great Canadian Wilderness Challenge? Will you make the leave-no-trace ethic your personal goal? Use this checklist to see how you measure up. It's up to each one of us to make sure that Canada's Wilderness survives!



Planning Ahead

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| I Will | I Did |
| ☐ travel and camp in small groups | ☐ |
| ☐ repackage food to reduce garbage | ☐ |
| ☐ not use cans or bottles | ☐ |
| ☐ bring a sturdy litterbag for garbage | ☐ |
| ☐ carry a stove and bring foods which require little cooking | ☐ |

Walking Softly

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| I Will | I Did |
| ☐ walk single-file in middle of trails even if they are wet or muddy | ☐ |
| ☐ take only photos, never pick plants | ☐ |
| ☐ avoid trampling vegetation | ☐ |

Making a No-trace Camp

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| I Will | I Did |
| ☐ never cut live trees, or dead standing trees, for firewood | ☐ |
| ☐ not dig trenches around my tent | ☐ |
| ☐ make campfires only in designated firepits on campsites | ☐ |
| ☐ use portable stoves for cooking | ☐ |
| ☐ only use fires in emergencies | ☐ |
| ☐ wash 60 metres away from water using only biodegradable soap | ☐ |
| ☐ stay as quiet as possible so others may also enjoy the wilderness | ☐ |

Leaving No-trace of My Visit

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| I Will | I Did |
| ☐ pick up and pack out every trace of litter, both mine and other's | ☐ |
| ☐ make sure my fire is completely out before leaving | ☐ |
| ☐ report significant information or problems to the park office | ☐ |
| ☐ look for signs of my passing. Did I leave any traces? | ☐ |
| ☐ apply the no trace ethic elsewhere | ☐ |

Signed,

A Concerned Wilderness Visitor

Sportsman's Inn

Jewel of the North

1903 - Celebrating 100 years - 2004



A Waterfront Country Inn - Killarney



- Fine Dining
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Prevention is the Key

Black bear's are an important and natural part of Killarney's wilderness landscape.



Photo: Algonquin Park Archives

Camping in Black Bear Country

For most park visitors, seeing a Black Bear in its natural environment is an exciting experience. However, the excitement diminishes when that black bear is rummaging through your cooler or tent, in search of food.

Bears are normally shy of humans and quickly get out of our way. However, if they've had luck finding food at campsites, some bears lose their fear and start visiting campsites regularly looking for something to eat. These "campsite" bears can become persistent and destructive nuisances.

Capturing and relocating campsite bears has met with only limited success in established campgrounds and is almost never practical in the backcountry. Often, the only option is to destroy them. Keeping a scrupulously clean campsite is the best way to avoid having to do this.

The Nature of Bears

Bears, like most animals, are constantly looking for food. Since bears will hibernate and not eat for up to five months during the winter, they need to find enough food during the rest of the year to restore their fat reserves. Although they are large and powerful, bears survive by eating almost anything that is edible. Black Bears most often eat things like aspen leaves, nuts, berries, or grubs found by ripping apart old rotting logs. Their diet can also include young deer fawns or moose calves.

It is important to keep in mind that all bears can be dangerous. However, Black Bears are almost never interested in people, only in people's food. With a little common sense, you can minimize or avoid bear problems.

Steps to Follow If You Do Encounter a Bear

If a bear actually does come onto your campsite, here are the steps to follow:

- Confront the animal. All members of your party should be out of your tent(s), standing up, yelling, making noise, and throwing sticks and rocks - while ensuring the bear has a clear escape route. During the day you should wave your arms to appear bigger. At night, shining flashlights in the bear's eyes will help to confuse it. The aim is to be aggressive and persuade the bear to leave.
- If attempts to frighten the bear away fail, back away and give the bear a wide berth.
- If your dog is camping with you, keep it away from the bear. In some cases, dogs may nip at a bear and then run back to their human masters with the bear in pursuit.
- If a bear stands upright to get a better look at you, makes huffing or "popping" sounds, beats the earth with its forepaws, or even bluffs a charge, the bear is feeling threatened by your presence and is trying to get you to back off. Pay attention to such signs. Use bear spray if you have it and if the bear is within range. You should know how to properly use, store and carry this product. Bear spray, available from many outfitters, is pepper spray with a strength,

and a propellant, specifically formulated to deter bears when it is sprayed in their eyes. Keep in mind that bear spray is no replacement for appropriate conduct in the outdoors.

Contrary to popular belief, female Black Bears, even with cubs, are almost never aggressive towards humans. Still, if a female Black Bear with cubs comes onto your site, you should not approach the cubs or get between them and their mother.

Predatory Black Bears

On extremely rare occasions Black Bears attack humans with the intent to kill. About 56 people in North America have died this way since 1900. The Black Bears that prey on people are almost never campsite bears accustomed to getting food from humans. Rather, they are almost always large males with little or no previous contact with people.

* Predatory bears do not make huffing or "popping" sounds, nor do they beat the earth with their forepaws, or bluff charge as campsite bears sometimes do. Instead, they stalk, or press closer and closer to their intended prey, apparently assessing whether it is safe to attack.

* If ever faced with a predatory bear, it is essential that you confront the bear. Leave in your canoe if you can, but never turn and run. Do everything in your power to make the bear think twice about attacking you. Be aggressive, yell, throw rocks, hit the bear with sticks, and use bear spray if you have it. If a predatory bear does make contact with you, do not play dead. Fighting back with everything you have is the best way to persuade a predatory Black Bear to halt its attack.

Fortunately, human-bear encounters are rare in Ontario. However, increasing your awareness about the importance of a clean campsite, proper disposal of garbage and what to do when a bear does get too close will help ensure your camping vacation is a safe and memorable experience.

Bringing your own supply of firewood to the park?

Please read this.

Firewood often contains insects and plant diseases. Campers who bring firewood from home may accidentally spread those diseases that threaten Ontario's provincial parks and the health of our forests.

The Asian Longhorn beetle and Emerald Ash Borer are of particular concern. They are both recent arrivals to Canada and without natural controls here.

While the Emerald Ash Borer is currently believed to be confined to southwestern Ontario and southeast Michigan, where it has killed millions of ash trees, the movement of firewood has been the main culprit in its rapid spread in both the U.S. and Canada over the past year. As a result, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has imposed a quarantine, which prohibits the movement of

firewood to areas outside of Essex County and parts of the municipality of Chatham-Kent. The Asian Longhorn beetle has been found attacking hardwood trees between Vaughan and Toronto. Both insects can be easily spread in firewood, which may look normal, but still be infested with the insects.

How can you help:

- Do not move firewood, especially firewood obtained from areas under quarantine or prohibition of movement orders, such as Essex County, parts of Chatham-Kent and the U.S.
- Buy firewood from the area you're visiting.
- Ask your supplier where their wood comes from.
- If you have questions, check with park staff, call the CFIA at 1-800-442-2342 or go to www.inspection.gc.ca



Asian Longhorn Beetle



Emerald Ash Borer Beetle



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Protecting Wildlife in Ontario Parks



Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake

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There are more than 180 species at risk in Ontario, including mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians, insects and plants. Did you know that Ontario's provincial parks are home to about 65 per cent of these rare species? With officially 92 species being designated as Species at Risk in the

mixed forest region, of which Killarney is a part, the park offers sanctuary to reptiles, birds and insects at risk including the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake, Eastern Hog-nosed Snake and Blanding's Turtle, the Red Shouldered Hawk, the Bald Eagle, the Great Grey Owl, and even the Monarch Butterfly.

You can choose from a variety of adventures and experiences when you visit Ontario Parks - including educational programs about species at risk. Here at Killarney you can learn how to identify and help protect

rare species, or attend interesting and informative programs at the amphitheatre to learn about a species' life history, niche and interaction with other species. During your visit, if you see an animal, plant, or insect that you know is at risk, please report it to park staff.

To find out more, visit the George Lake Campground Office or talk to a park naturalist.

You can also visit:

www.OntarioParks.com/english/sar.html or www.rom.on.ca/ontario/risk.html

Wolf Research Continues in the Killarney French River Region

Winter 2003-4 Research Update:

Regular monitoring of collared wolves continued through this past winter. Our understanding of wolf movements and predation in the French River area is growing substantially. The social organization of collared animals is becoming more evident. Some members of existing packs have



Radio collared Timber Wolf recovers just East of Killarney Provincial Park.

dispersed and were found to establish or join previously unmonitored packs. Other wolves have performed extended extra-territorial exploratory forays, only to return to their original home after several days or weeks. Some animals exhibit very consistent pack formations and behaviours, while others appear to engage in much looser social organizations, spending more time apart than together. Human-related mortality was the sole documented source of loss of collared animals during this period. Three wolves were killed this winter: one by logging truck, another by train (the second wolf killed by train since the initiation of this project), and a third was shot in late winter.

Wolf live-capture was conducted this February to increase the number of animals and packs being monitored. Using a helicopter and net-gun, twelve wolves were captured by a professional wildlife-capture team from Alberta. Animals were instrumented with either VHF or GPS collars, attempting to achieve a fairly even distribution of collar types across the study site. No animals were injured during the capture and handling effort.

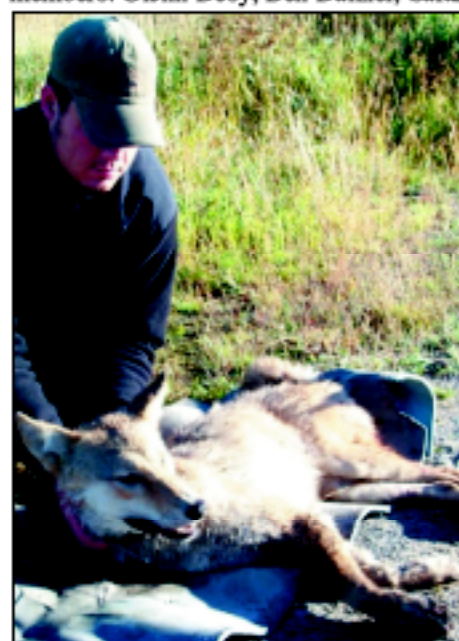
Extensive snow-tracking of monitored wolf packs was conducted by University of Guelph field personnel as well. Following wolf tracks enables researchers to collect detailed data on wolf movement patterns, prey encounters, and kill-sites. A dozen wolf kill-sites were documented during this period; prey types included elk, moose, and white-tailed deer in roughly equal proportions. Furthermore, a similar number of scavenger-sites were identified, where it was estimated that the wolves had fed on animals that had died of causes unrelated to wolf predation (starvation, tick infestation, car collisions). Another means of identifying wolf diet composition is through laboratory analysis of wolf feces. Over 100 wolf scats were collected this winter for this use.

Winter telemetry revealed that the project is monitoring five wolves that reside in and around Killarney Provincial Park. Two range throughout the park, especially in the interior areas north of the LaCloche Mountain Range. The other three belong to a pack that frequents the southern region of the park; their tracks

and scat can occasionally be seen in the George Lake area.

Summer 2004 Research Update:

The summer trapping season began in early August replicating the same methods as used in 2003. This year's team consisted of four members: Glenn Desy, Ben Dalziel, Sarah



Ben Cox collaring a wolf near Burwash and the Wanapitei River.

Wyshynski, and Ben Cox-three graduate students in Zoology at the University of Guelph and a wildlife technician from the Northern Environmental Heritage Institute. The season yielded seven wolf captures, with one adult female being captured on two separate occasions. The wolves sustained no serious injuries during the capture or handling process. Several VHF collars were added to the Burwash pack, whose territory overlaps extensively with several herds of

reintroduced elk. One of the wolves captured this summer was wearing a malfunctioning GPS collar that had been deployed this past winter and was no longer collecting data. The old collar was removed and replaced with a new GPS collar. The Loon Lake pack, which previously contained only a single marked wolf, was expanded by the addition of an adult male affixed with a VHF collar.

A source of excitement this season was the first capture of a member of the Redgun pack, expanding the wolf research area. Unfortunately, six weeks later the collar on this juvenile female was transmitting in "mortality" mode, indicating that the collar was no longer moving. Field crew members hiked in to the location and confirmed that this young wolf had died. The cause of death could not be determined with complete confidence; however, evidence at the scene indicated that the mortality was the result of a natural occurrence, such as being kicked by a moose or fighting with a rival wolf pack.

Over 200 additional wolf scats were collected this summer for use in the dietary analysis of French River wolves. Telemetry monitoring of marked animals continues on a regular basis. Laboratory analysis of wolf scats will begin this fall. Additional helicopter capture and intensive winter monitoring will be conducted again this year.

The French River wolf/elk research project owes much of its success so far to the tremendous support received from a wide variety of individuals and organizations, including: the University of Guelph, NSERC, Cambrian College, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Sudbury District, Killarney Provincial Park, the Algonquin Provincial Park wolf research project, as well as numerous hunters and trappers in the French River-Killarney region. Your help has been, and will continue to be, very much appreciated.



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Research, Research...

Acidification and Recovery in Killarney Park

By: Dr. Shelley Arnott
Department of Biology, Queen's University

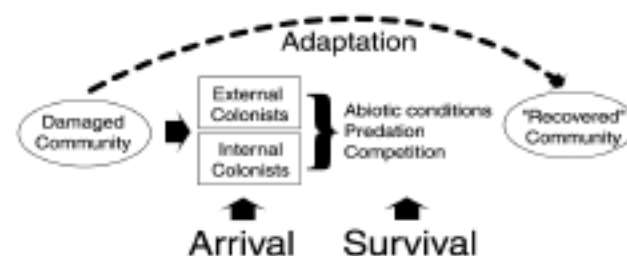
Acid rain became a household word in the 1970s and '80s. During this time period, scientists realized that the pH of rain was much lower than normal because of the release of large amounts of sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and smaller amounts of nitrogen oxides (NO and NO₂) into the atmosphere. These chemicals are produced by the combustion of coal, oil, and gasoline, and the smelting of ores containing high concentrations of sulphur. In the past, the rain falling in the Sudbury and Killarney Provincial Park area was very acidic because of smelting associated with nickel mining activities. In some parts of the world there are natural sources of acids in the atmosphere, such as volcanoes and forest fires, but 90% of the sulphur and 60-80% of the nitrogen oxides in the atmosphere result from human activities.

Acid rain has caused much damage to natural and human environments. The high acidity has resulted in the deterioration of statues and buildings, as well as forests and aquatic ecosystems. In Killarney Provincial Park, many lakes were acidified sometime between 1940 and 1970. The result was the loss of fish species, including lake trout and smallmouth bass, from many of the lakes. In addition, there was a loss of biodiversity in other aquatic life, including algae, the plant life that forms the base of the aquatic food web; zooplankton, microscopic crustaceans that filter algae from the water and provide food for young fish; and macro-invertebrates found both along the shoreline and in the deep layers of the lake.

Fortunately, scientists realized that this loss of biodiversity in lakes was happening as a result of acid rain. Legislation was passed that forced industry to reduce its emission of

sulphur into the atmosphere. Since the 1970s, the smelters near Sudbury have reduced their sulphur emissions by over 90%! The result has been an improvement in water quality in many lakes in Killarney Provincial Park. Some of the lakes, including George, Carlyle, Bell, Kakakise, Johnnie, and Terry lakes, have recovered to their pre-industrial pH. In others, such as Nellie, O.S.A., Clearsilver, David, Killarney, and Norway lakes, water quality improvements have been slower and pH has not recovered to the pre-industrial level.

Similarly, biological recovery has varied from lake to lake, although it is generally much slower than chemical recovery. Several factors influence the recovery of aquatic organisms in Killarney Provincial Park lakes (see figure). Plants and animals that disappeared from the lakes when they were acidified must be able to disperse back into lakes once water quality has improved. Aquatic organisms have several different means of dispersal, including transport by wind, birds and animals, stream connections, and humans. In addition, some organisms produce eggs that can remain dormant for years (like seeds) enabling dispersal through time. Once an organism gets to a lake, it must be able to survive local environmental conditions. This includes water chemistry (e.g., pH) and interactions with other organisms. In some lakes, the pH has not recovered to a point where previously occurring species can re-colonize. In some lakes, the loss of fish populations with acidification may prevent biological recovery. When fish are absent, some acid-tolerant invertebrate predators, such as diving water beetles and midge larvae, increase in abundance because fish are no longer preying on them. These invertebrate predators may prevent the successful re-colonization of some zooplankton species. Therefore, the reintroduction of fish may be necessary for complete recovery.



Conceptual model of recovery. Organisms must first overcome dispersal barriers and arrive at the lake. The local environmental conditions will then determine their ability to survive and reproduce. Over time, some organisms may evolve an increased tolerance to the stressor, which will enable them to survive a wider range of pH.

In addition, there are other stressors that are influencing the recovery of aquatic organisms in the park. One of these is the invasion of an exotic invertebrate predator, the spiny water flea. Last summer, we found this predator in several of the lakes that are starting to recover from acidification, including George, Kakakise, Carlyle, and Bell lakes. In addition, it was also discovered in two of the lakes that never acidified, Helen and Low lakes. This predator has large impacts on aquatic communities in the lakes it invades and we suspect that recovery of Killarney Provincial Park lakes will be impeded by the presence of this invader. Another potential stressor influencing the recovery of Killarney Provincial Park lakes is climate change. Some of our previous research has indicated that some lakes re-acidify after periods of drought. This sets back both chemical and biological recovery. In Killarney Park, several lakes, including David, OSA, Ruth Roy, and Nellie, have undergone brief periods of re-acidification. We are unsure of the mechanism causing this, but we continue to monitor the lakes in an effort to provide answers to these questions.



Tens of thousands of boreal shield lakes were damaged by acid rain from mining smelter emissions during the early half of the twentieth century. One of the first sites where damaging effects of lake acidification was observed was Killarney Provincial Park. Impacted by industrial sources of SO₂ (sulphur dioxide), these lakes suffered large-scale biological damage including widespread losses of fish and invertebrates. With the combination of legislated control programs and modernization initiatives by industry from the 1970s to the present,

Recovery of Killarney Lakes from Historical Acidification

Sudbury smelter emissions (SO₂) were reduced by over 90% since peak emissions in the 1960s. As a result, many lakes in Killarney Park are experiencing dramatic chemical, and, to a lesser extent, biological recovery. However, recovering Killarney Park lakes face additional stressors that may impede biological recovery – the recent invasion of a predatory zooplankton, *Bythotrephes longimanus* and increased temperatures associated with a general warming trend.

The invasion of exotic species into freshwater ecosystems is a growing problem. Invasive species have altered food webs worldwide. *Bythotrephes longimanus*, commonly known as the spiny water flea, is a large predatory zooplankton that invaded the Great Lakes in the mid-1980s. Since then, it has spread throughout many inland lakes in south-central Ontario. To date, it has been detected in at least 80 Ontario lakes. It most commonly occurs in large, deep oligotrophic (nutrient poor) lakes, similar to many of the lakes in Killarney Park. This past summer, *Bythotrephes* was

detected in Carlyle, Helen and Tyson lakes. Previous sightings have occurred in Low, Bell, George, Kakakise, and Clearsilver lakes.

Studies have shown *Bythotrephes* can drastically affect freshwater food webs, including changes to native zooplankton community structure and composition. This can have dire consequences to lakes as zooplankton plays a key role in aquatic food webs. Consuming algae and being eaten by fish, zooplankton are a means by which nutrients and energy are transferred to upper levels of the food web, particularly fish. It has been hypothesized that *Bythotrephes* may impact Killarney Park lakes biological recovery from acidification. The influence of warmer temperatures is less clear, but changes in species composition associated with climate change are expected.

Using historical lake survey data on 48 Killarney Park lakes, in combination with data that I collected last summer and propose to collect this summer, I will address four questions: 1) What is the extent of

chemical and biological recovery in Killarney Park lakes?, 2) How many Killarney Park lakes has *Bythotrephes* invaded?, 3) How has *Bythotrephes* invasion influenced zooplankton recovery in Killarney Park lakes?, 4) What influence does climate change have on zooplankton communities?

To date results indicate that pH is continuing to increase. However, preliminary results show limited and variable recovery of zooplankton communities despite water quality improvements. We suspect that recovery may be influenced by *Bythotrephes* and warmer lake temperatures and are continuing our data collection and analyses to explore these hypotheses. Understanding the effects of these multiple stressors is essential and challenging as they may have important implications for lake restoration and management.

For more information on this project please visit the following website:
<http://biology.queensu.ca/%7Earnotts/>

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Evolution in Action in Killarney Lakes



Alison with a sediment core containing microscopic dormant resting eggs of copepods.

By: Alison Derry,
Dept. Biology, Queen's University

Evolution has traditionally been thought of as a slow process, plodding over millions of years, and largely unaffected by the brevity of human lives. However, scientists are increasingly realizing that evolutionary changes can occur rapidly in nature. In fact, some of the most dramatic examples of rapid evolution result from pressures exerted by humans on ecosystems – habitat degradation, invasive species, and selective harvest of wildlife and fish. One example of a historical human-induced environmental stressor was acid rain caused by metal mining emissions during the 1920s to 1980s. Acidic precipitation plummeted water pH in tens of thousands of lakes on the boreal shield, including Killarney Park, to lethally low acidic levels. As a result, with the

exception of a few acid-tolerant species, most fauna were eliminated from these stressed lakes. However, these habitats have been chemically recovering back to circum-neutral water conditions within the last decade, and scientists are researching what factors control re-colonization and re-establishment of aquatic communities. It turns out that evolution may provide a key to answer this contemporary question.

Field and laboratory experiments coupled with genetic analyses have shown that *Leptodiptomus minutus*, a tiny copepod that dominates most lakes in Killarney, was not always acid-tolerant. Preliminary research suggests that the ancestral strain of this species dominates in neutral, buffered lakes with no history of acidification. In contrast, mutated acid-tolerant strains occur in acidic and circum-neutral lakes with a history of prior acidification. Further, hatching of dormant copepod resting eggs that accumulated in lake sed-

iments through time indicate pre-industrial populations of *Leptodiptomus minutus* that lived in Killarney lakes at the turn of the century did not have the acid-tolerant adaptation that characterizes many populations of this species living in Killarney lakes today. So, does this mean that evolution can take care of some of our environmental problems? Unlikely. Instead, evolution can provide insight into how human impacts are altering ecological trajectories of ecosystems. There is some evidence that acid-resistant communities may slow or prevent re-colonization of other acid-sensitive species. We do not know what tradeoffs exist for acid-tolerance adaptation in the face of other environmental stressors such as climate change and invasive species. If human activities on the landscape can change the direction of evolution in certain species, then this could potentially have cascading effects on communities and ecosystems.

Invasive Species in Killarney Park Lakes

By Angela Strecker, Queen's University

Invading species are a growing problem in freshwater ecosystems. The movement of organisms across large physical barriers, such as oceans, is occurring at a much faster rate than has ever been recorded in history. One such species, *Bythotrephes longimanus* (a.k.a. spiny water flea), invaded North America from Eurasia, likely hitchhiking in the ballast water of ships crossing the Atlantic Ocean and coming to ports in the Great Lakes. Since establishing populations in all five Great Lakes, the spiny water flea has also invaded >70 inland lakes in Ontario, as well as several lakes in Wisconsin, Ohio, and Minnesota.

After the initial introduction of the spiny water flea into the Great Lakes in the 1980s, it is suspected that the secondary wave of invasions occurred through the movement of boats between the Great Lakes and inland lakes. The spiny water flea has two ways that it can reproduce which make it a very successful invader. First, they have the ability to produce large numbers of clones of themselves in a short span of time when conditions are favourable (asexual reproduction). Second, when conditions start to deteriorate (cooler temperatures, less food available), they can sexually produce resting eggs, which can survive cold temperatures and drying, and hatch when conditions become favourable again. These two modes of reproduction mean that not only can an invasive population be started from a small number of individuals, but also that they can survive when they aren't in water. Populations of spiny water fleas inhabit the upper well-lit surface waters of lakes, as they are visual predators. They feed on organisms known as zooplankton, small animals that live in the open water part of the lake. Zooplankton typically feed on phytoplankton (algae) and smaller zoo-

plankton. Zooplankton are an important component of lakes as they occupy an intermediate position in food webs, consuming algae and being eaten by small fish, thus transferring nutrients and energy from photosynthesis to upper levels of the food web. It is expected that the spiny water flea will disrupt this natural movement through the food web by consuming vast numbers of other zooplankton, out competing small fish for their prey, while avoiding being eaten by smaller fish due to the presence of their large spine. Other less noticeable impacts occur in the lake, such as a decrease in the abundance and the diversity of the zooplankton community, as well as change the identity of species present. This may have other implications, as it is expected that a zooplankton community that is less abundant won't consume as much phytoplankton, thus affecting algal abundance as well.

Another well-known invader of North American waters is the zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*). This small invertebrate colonizes hard substrates in lakes and filters out organisms and particles from the water. The invasion of the zebra mussel can have both ecological and economic impacts, as high colonization rates have led to reductions in aquatic biodiversity in many lakes, as well as bio-fouling boat hulls and industrial machinery. Zebra mussels tend to invade lakes that have high pH and calcium levels. Many of Killarney Provincial Park's lakes were damaged by acid precipitation, thus the pH of most lakes is lower than the zebra mussels can tolerate. Also, calcium levels of Canadian Shield lakes are typically lower than what is required for zebra mussel establishment. Therefore, it is unlikely that zebra mussels will establish in park lakes even though they are present in Georgian Bay.

Prevention is the key to stopping these aquatic invaders.

Some tips for preventing the spread of invasive species are (from Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters invading species website (www.invadingspecies.com)):

If you would like more information, take a look at these

- 1) Inspect your boat, paddles, trailer, boating equipment, fishing tackle and nets and remove any visible plants or animals before leaving any water body.
- 2) Drain water from motor, live well, bilge and transom wells while on land before leaving the water body.
- 3) Empty your bait bucket on land before leaving the water body. Never release live bait into a water body, or release animals from one water body into another.
- 4) Wash/Dry your fishing tackle, nets, boat, paddles, and equipment to kill harmful species that were not seen at the boat launch. Some species can survive for several days out of water, so it is important to: rinse your boat and equipment with hot tap water (> 40°C); or spray your boat and equipment with high pressure water (250 psi); or dry your boat and equipment for at least five days, before transporting to another water body.

Web sites:

- <http://www.great-lakes.net/envt/flora-fauna/invasive/spinyflea.html>
- <http://venus.uwindsor.ca/courses/biology/macisaac/pages/index.htm>
- <http://www.invadingspecies.com>
- <http://www.seagrant.umn.edu/exotics/spiny.html>

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And the winners are...

With over 200 photos to choose from, the jury's decision was not easy. We would like to thank all those who entered, and look forward to seeing your entries in 2006. Here are the winning photographs.

Capture the beauty of Killarney and enter Killarney Provincial Park's Thirteenth annual Photo Contest. You can choose between two categories in this contest!

1) **The Great Outdoors**—showcase your favourite locations by capturing the nature and scenery of Killarney Provincial Park and surrounding area.

2) **Go For it!** Let's see you having fun—hiking, paddling, enjoying a view, relaxing.

Notes:

- Entries are accepted until Nov 30, 2006.
- Photographs will be returned in stamped, self-addressed envelopes only.
- Photos are juried by a panel of Killarney Park and Friends of Killarney Park staff/board members.
- Photographs may be held for one year for use in park publications and displays.
- Ontario Parks and Friends of Killarney Park reserves the right to copy and use any entries for future programs and publications.



Runner Up:
"Clouds-Stairway to Heaven"
Karen Thwaites,
Midland, Ontario



The Great Outdoors

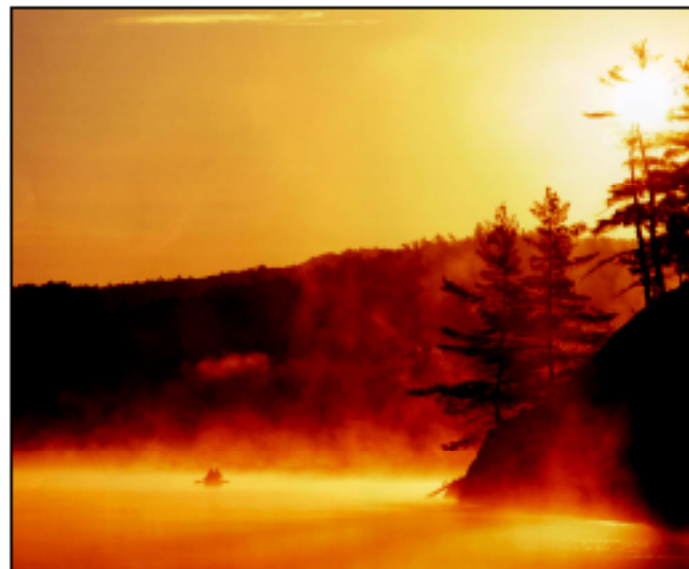
Winner:
"Memory of Quartz"
Noel Mercieca,
Mississauga, Ontario

Go For It!



Winner:
"Canoeing with friends"
Denny Fong,
Toronto, Ontario

Runner Up:
"Morning Canoe"
Edwin Pratt,
Hartford, Connecticut



2006 Prizes

Photo Contest Winners and Honourable Mentions will receive gift certificates in the amount of \$75.00 and \$25.00 respectively from Taylor's Outdoor Gear, 370 King St. W, Toronto.



Taylor's
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your passport to adventure

How to enter:

- On the back of each photograph entered, clearly print the photograph's title, category, location in the park, and the photographer's name and address.
- Photographs should be unmounted colour or black and white prints. An 8 x 10 format is preferred, but not mandatory.

Send entries* to: KILLARNEY PHOTO CONTEST, Killarney Provincial Park, Killarney, Ontario. POM 2A0

*Killarney Provincial Park and Friends of Killarney Park staff are not eligible to enter.

What Are Friends For?



Welcome!

2006 marks 20 years for the Friends of Killarney Park! In 20 years, this organization has grown and flourished under the guidance and support of many dedicated members and volunteers.

Although the vision and values of the Friends remain the same today as they were in 1986 - it was never dreamed that 20 years would produce a successful store with over \$200,000 in annual sales and \$55,000 of financial support spent on park protection and education projects in a year. From the meagre beginnings of a 'store' and information booth stationed on a member's campsite, Friends of Killarney Park has grown into one of the most active and successful groups in Ontario.

To each and every member, volunteer and supporter: take pride in the fact that you have all helped to support the success of this organization. Just take a look at the huge list of accomplishments to see what we have achieved in the protection and education of Killarney Park and the surrounding area. It proves that through the passion that each of us feels for this extraordinary place, we are making a difference.

I would like to invite everyone - Friends old and new - to join in our 20th Anniversary Celebrations in 2006. I look forward to seeing you in Killarney this summer.

Dawn Brown - Executive Director
Friends of Killarney Park

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2006 Calendar of Events

Friends Weekend (AGM)

A weekend for the Friends to promote who we are and what we do. Our guest speakers will include well-known paddlers and authors Kevin Callan and Joanie and Gary McGuffin. The event will include an outdoor gear silent auction, barbeque, skills workshops, and family oriented activities. Come out to the Annual General Meeting and see what the Friends have been up to.

When: July 14th -16th

Killarney Art Show

In Celebration of the strong connection between Canadian art History and the Killarney area, Friends of Killarney Park is hosting its first ever Art Show and Sale. Keep an eye on our website as more details will be posted soon!

When: July 29 - 30, 2006

Where: Veteran's Memorial Hall

Safeguarding a cherished landscape:

To help safeguard the cherished landscape of Killarney Provincial Park, the Friends of Killarney Park was founded in 1986 through the hard work and dedication of many passionate individuals. With over 400 enthusiastic members, a committed board of directors and staff, the Friends play a vital role in protecting the fragile natural environment and producing valuable educational materials for the Killarney visitor. Partnering closely with Ontario Parks, this predominantly volunteer organization has achieved many successes, including:

- Killarney Park Educational Publications (Canoe and Hiking Guides)
- Backcountry/Campground Rehabilitation
- Naturalist Pack Loan Program
- Park Once Challenge to Reduce Greenhouse Gases
- Production and Distribution of Information Pamphlets on Backcountry Skills and a Winter Activity Guide
- Interpretive Walking Trail Signage Improvements
- Supporting a Variety of Wildlife Research Projects

Today, the organization has evolved into a leader amongst Friends' groups in the province. Guided by progressive strategic and fundraising plans, the organization is working hard to guarantee the continued well-being of this Ontario Parks crown jewel. By thinking globally and acting locally, the Friends of Killarney Park are truly making a difference.

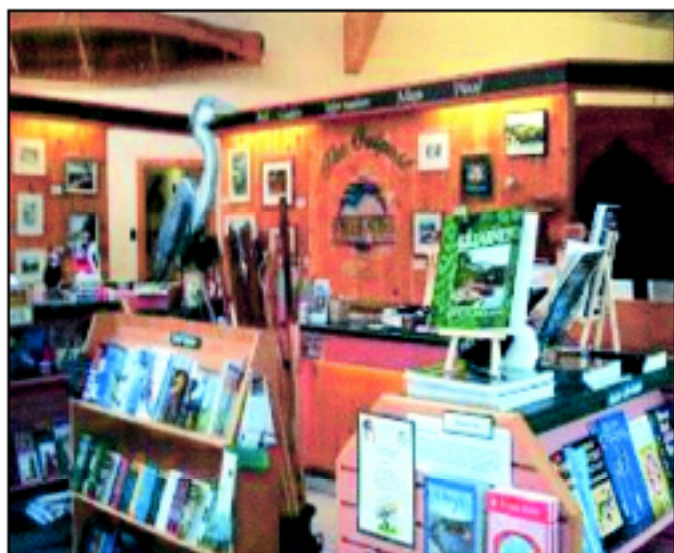
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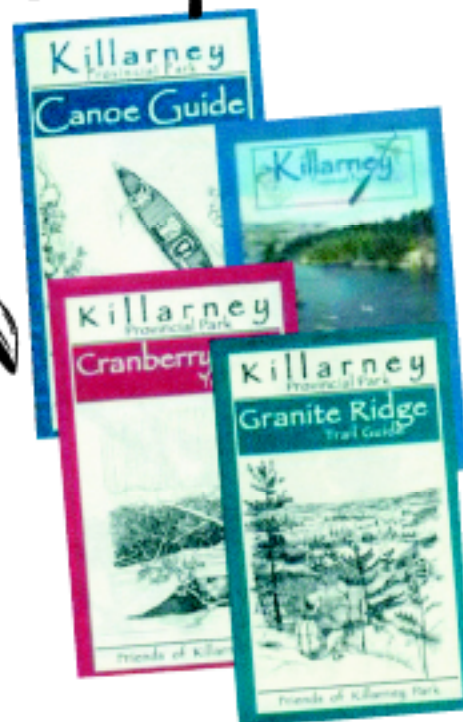
www.friendsofkillarneypark.ca

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- Field Guides
- Souvenirs
- Naturalist Packs



Members of Friends of Killarney Park receive a **15% discount** on most items at the Outpost. **Join today!**

2 Locations
Bell Lake Access Point
Park Office at George Lake
705-287-2800

Help us continue our efforts to Preserve, Protect, and Educate by becoming a member of the Friends of Killarney Park!

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Killarney, Ontario P0M 2A0
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friends@friendsofkillarneypark.ca

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Friends of Killarney Park

Membership benefits include:

- Participating in activity days and volunteering for special projects;
- Receiving the Friends' newsletter "Paddles and Trails" three times a year;
- Receiving 15% discount on most items sold at the Friends Outpost store locations;
- The knowledge that you have made a difference in protecting Killarney Provincial Park.



Take A Hike

Day Hikes In The Park

One of the best ways to see Killarney is to hike the trails. So, if you have a notion to really explore, lace up those hiking boots and follow your feet.

- Please remember, **the Can & Bottle Ban applies to all park hiking trails.**
- Please walk single-file on park trails to avoid widening the paths.

Safe Hiking Techniques

1. Learn how to use a map & compass, and always bring them hiking.
 2. Know your limits and respect them. You are responsible for your health and safety:
- Know how much pack weight you can carry for extended periods.

- Know how many hours you can hike in one day—six hours is usually plenty!

- Do you have injuries or weaknesses (eg. ankles, knees)? Strengthen supporting muscles before you arrive.

3. Sturdy hiking boots are recommended on all trails, and are essential on the La Cloche Silhouette Trail. Running shoes

and sandals do not provide adequate support, making you prone to injury.

4. Pack a few essentials—first aid kit, compass, sunscreen, bug repellent, a park map, trail guide, a water bottle and some snacks.

Trail Guides for Cranberry Bog, Granite Ridge and La Cloche Silhouette are available at The Outpost.

Cranberry Bog Trail

Access: Cranberry Bog Trail starts from the campground road, near site #103. Parking/privy nearby.

Length: Approx. 4 km. Loop trail

Time: 2 1/2 hours, steady going.

Difficulty: Moderate.

Caution: In wet weather rock surfaces are very slippery.

Cranberry Bog Trail leads hikers past some of the park's loveliest scenery. Bogs, marshes and swamps grow a variety of plants such as sundew, leatherleaf, pitcher plant, and cranberry. Beaver feed piles can be seen along the way. Many birds frequent this trail's habitats, and Blanding's Turtles

have been known to make occasional appearances in Cranberry Bog. Evidence of glaciation ranges from smooth rock surfaces to glacial striations and chatter marks. A.Y. Jackson Lake, named after the Group of Seven artist, is striking—blue waters nestled against a backdrop of pink rock and evergreens—a lovely place to sketch or take a picture. Cranberry Bog Trail shows hikers a close-up view of the beauty of Killarney.



La Cloche Silhouette Trail

The La Cloche Silhouette Trail is named after a painting by the Group of Seven's Franklin Carmichael. These hikes follow sections of the 100 km trail near the park campground, and are not loop trails. Please do not stop for breaks on campsites—they are reserved for overnight hikers.

West Access: The west trailhead is at George Lake Dam. Parking/privy nearby. **Length:** 14 km. to Acid Lake and return. **Linear trail.**

Time: Acid Lake—return, takes about 6 to 7 hours, steady going.

Difficulty: Moderate.

Caution: A couple of stretches of the trail may be quite wet if there's been rain.

The west (Baie Fine) section of trail heads to Acid and Lumsden lakes over rolling forested hills. The trail crosses small streams and rivers, occasionally passing by the rocky shores of some small lakes. Keep on the lookout for wild animals, or clues that they've been around, such as scat, fur tufts, or tracks.

East Access: This trail starts from Blue Heron Circle. Parking/privies nearby.

Length: 20 km. to "the Crack" and return along a **linear trail.**

Time: Round trip to "the Crack" takes around 10 to 12 hours, steady going.

Difficulty: Moderate, some Difficult sections.

Cautions: In wet weather rock surfaces are very slippery. Do not try to reach "the Crack" unless you are in good shape and can get an early start.

The east (Killarney Ridge) section of the trail heads to "the Crack". Forests, wetlands and rocky ridge sections provide variety. Climbing "the Crack" requires effort—large boulders must be negotiated to reach the ridgetop. From the ridge hikers can see the park's rugged and scenic landscape.

Chikanishing Trail

Access: Chikanishing Trail starts at the end of Chikanishing Road, 2 km west of the park office. Parking and privy nearby.

Length: 3 km. along a loop trail

Time: 1 to 1 1/2 hours, steady going.

Difficulty: Moderate with lots of ups and downs over granite outcrops.

Caution: In wet weather rock surfaces are very slippery, so good footwear and caution is required.

Winding to the park's southern boundary, Chikanishing Trail passes over a series of small ridges, ending up at a beautiful, wave-

washed point on Georgian Bay. This trail runs across Pre Cambrian Shield granite, and vegetation along much of the route is typical of the rocky, windswept terrain seen along many stretches of Georgian Bay's coast.

Shallow, acidic soils and harsh growing conditions have stressed the vegetation along this trail. In wind-sheltered spots enough soil has accumulated to support larger trees, such as pine and oak.

Old iron rings used for mooring lines during logging days can still be seen here and there along the trail. Interpretive plaques along this route tell the colourful history of this part of Georgian Bay.

Granite Ridge Trail

Granite Ridge Trail starts by winding through old fields and forests. Soon, you're up on a ridge that offers two lookouts over the park. To the south, Collins Inlet and Philip Edward Island follow the shore below you, and Georgian Bay stretches as far as your eyes can see. The north lookout opens onto the ridges of the La Cloche Range. The closest ridge is Killarney Ridge, with Blue Ridge sitting beyond to the north. Sometimes, hawks and Turkey Vultures can be seen soaring along the ridges. Granite Ridge Trail shows hikers the unique La Cloche landscape that Killarney is renowned for.

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More Hikes And Paddling Safety



Trails Close By

East Lighthouse/Tar Vat Trail *operated by Town of Killarney*

Access: Tar Vat Trail begins right behind the parking area at Killarney's East Lighthouse. No privy nearby.

Length: approx. 7 km. Linear trail.

Time Required: 3 1/2 hrs.

Difficulty: Moderate.

Caution: Rock surfaces may be slippery.

Tar Vat Trail is a wonderful hike that takes you to Pond Point and back. Following beside Georgian Bay, the trail's name comes from a small bay where fishermen tarred their nets...old rusted vats still stand there today! Keep the bay on your right side heading out, and on your left returning.

George Island Trail *operated by local business*

Access: Killarney's newest trail! The George Island trailhead is located on George Island, across the Killarney Channel from the Sportsman's Inn, in the Town of Killarney. The Sportsman's Inn offers a ferry service to the trailhead for a small fee (a Twoonie for adults, roundtrip - children no charge)

Length: 7.5-km round trip

Terrain: Moderate-Difficult Mostly flat or rolling terrain with a few short climbs and an irregular tread-way

Caution: Some exposed rocky surfaces, which may be slippery when wet. There are also sections of irregular and unstable tread-way. A sturdy pair of hiking-boots is required.

Trail Markers: Standard red arrows on trees and on rock

lowland area of towering stands of coniferous and deciduous forest separated by numerous beaver ponds. Both the forest and the beaver ponds offer possible glimpses of wildlife, such as deer, moose, songbirds, and wildflowers.

After leaving the low-lying areas the trail climbs towards a peak looking out over Georgian Bay and Manitoulin Island. Hikers may see far off islands that are not normally visible from the mainland section of Killarney. The trail then drops again through a thick cedar forest before coming to the rugged shores of Georgian Bay and Sandy Cove on the southwest corner of George Island

The trail then returns inland past one last beaver pond, connecting back with the main trail leading to the trailhead and the Sportsman's Inn.

The first part of the journey is through a

Paddling Georgian Bay

Killarney has long been a favoured destination of Georgian Bay mariners. Snug harbours, clear blue water, wilderness and wildlife, the emerald and ivory hued La Cloche Mountains...it's no wonder north Georgian Bay's popularity continues to grow.

This year we are repeating our plea to Georgian Bay "big water" enthusiasts to demonstrate a high degree of personal responsibility and stewardship when paddling and camping on the bay. Here are a few considerations for those who are bound for the "big water"...

- Small motor boats, canoes, and kayaks may use the Chikanishish boat launch facility and access creek. Make way for fellow travelers and do not linger in access area.
- Conditions can be highly variable on Georgian Bay. Pull into shore and seek shelter if conditions become difficult and beyond your skill and experience level.
- At a minimum you should know self-rescue techniques and should have the skills to be self-reliant before attempting "big water". Consider contacting a local outfitter for instructional programs.
- Seek shelter during storms. Avoid camping on the outer islands as they provide little shelter from wind and lightning. First time kayakers should stick to Collins Inlet.
- Bringing along a marine radio is highly recommended.
- If you are lost...stay calm, stay safe, stay visible and STAY PUT! People will be searching for you and you're easier to find if you're not a moving target.
- Plan for emergencies. Bring sufficient gear and supplies to safely extend your visit if necessary.
- Carry with you and know how to use all the safety equipment required for your mode of travel (see listing below).
- Consider picking up where others inadvertently left off and return any garbage you find to a garbage bin.
- Conserve the sparse wood out on the bay and use camp stoves as much as possible.
- Observe all Fishing and Boating regulations.

Equipment Requirements for Canoes, Kayaks, Rowboats and Rowing Shells (not over 6m in length)



Personal Protection Equipment

- 1) One Canadian-approved personal flotation device or lifejacket of appropriate size for each person on board.
- 2) One buoyant heaving line of not less than 15m in length.

Boat Safety Equipment

- 3) one manual propelling device or an anchor with not less than 15m of cable, rope, or chain in any combination.
- 4) One bailer or one manual water pump fitted with or accompanied by sufficient hose to enable a person using the pump to pump water from the bilge of the vessel over the side of the vessel.

Navigational Equipment

- 5) a sound signaling device or a sound signaling appliance.
- 6) navigational lights that meet the applicable standards set out in the collision regulations if the pleasure craft is operated after sunset or before sunrise or in periods of restricted visibility.

See Canadian Coast Guard's "Safe Boating Guide" for further details.

Trivia Answers

1. Moose, Elk, Bear, Deer, and Human are the five largest animals that you can find in Killarney.
2. It is unknown which tree is Killarney's oldest. However, White Cedar, Eastern Hemlock, Sugar Maple, Red Oak, Red Pine, White Pine, and Yellow Birch may reach ages over 300 years.
3. Although commonly referred to as Quartzite. The true name of the rock is Ortho-Quartzite or Quartz-rich Sandstone.
4. Rocks found near the town of Little Current produce a bell-like sound when struck with a stone. French explorers hearing this sound gave the area and the mountains the name "La Cloche" or bell.
5. Franklin Carmichael, A.Y. Jackson, Arthur Lismer, A.J. Casson are known to have painted in the area.
6. Barred, Great-horned, Saw-whet, and Screech Owls are confirmed residents. Snowy, Great Grey, Boreal, Long-Eared, Short-Eared, and Hawk Owls may live in or visit Killarney.
7. Nellie Lake water clarity is 28m.

8. The Cranberry Bog Trail will bring you to the bog where you may observe carnivorous plants.
9. Although Silver Peak is the highest peak in the park, it doesn't even make Ontario's top 30 highest peaks list.
10. Look to the sky. The Perseids meteor shower occurs on the 12th or 13th of August every year.
11. Killarney is a wilderness-class park.
12. Nursing female little brown bats might eat their own body weight in mosquitoes and other insects in a single night.
13. 9000 years ago humans were making tools in the Killarney area out of the Ortho-quartzite rock of the La Cloche Mountains.
14. Apparently the notorious former mayor of Chicago owned a cabin on Three Narrows Lake and may have invited Al Capone up for a visit.
15. September is Killarney's rainiest month.
16. 5000 - 11000 years ago the northern Great Lakes, at times, drained east through the French River area.

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Get Involved

Monitoring Success in Killarney Park

There is so much more to Killarney Provincial Park than its scenic beauty. Home to an impressive diversity of wildlife living in a wide variety of ecosystems Killarney is an important wilderness area in Ontario. Killarney's wilderness has received a lot of attention over the years. In the 1960 and 1970 the impacts of acid rain were discovered here and the ensuing research garnered much public attention to this issue. Killarney's lakes have since become some of the most studied lakes in the world. Persistent research and monitoring are essential to our understanding of environmental concerns. We invite you to participate in this vital process.

The following projects need the continued support of volunteers, park staff, and researchers. Our sincere thanks to the many individuals and groups for their ongoing support of Killarney Park's monitoring programs. Please call us at (705-287-2900) for more details on each individual project or event.

Spring Loon Survey (May 27th)

Loon breeding success is an important indicator of the relative health of an aquatic ecosystem. During this one-day event each of Killarney's southern lakes will be paddled on or hiked into to determine the spring population of our majestic loons. Information gathered during this day will be forwarded to the Canadian Loon Lakes Survey (CLLS) and will also be included as data for the Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Network (EMAN). Could you think of a better excuse to go paddling for a day?

Included: Free campsites, bug repellent, and a BBQ are provided for interested participants.

Summer Loon Survey (Aug. 13th)

A new generation of loons have hit the water and a second scouring of Killarney's southern lakes is needed to assess the reproductive success of our loons. Data collected during this event will go to CLLS and EMAN.

Included: A wrap-up BBQ, fun, sun, and less bugs than the spring count.

Killarney's 8th Annual Butterfly Count (July 16th)

Through the North American Butterfly Association Killarney Provincial Park participates in a continental monitoring program that tracks butterfly populations trends. Butterflies are important indicators of large-scale environmental changes. Like a canary in the mine butterflies may give us our first indications of global climate change. So grab yourself a net and join us for a fun-filled day of butterfly chasing and identification.

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

Greater Georgian Bay Reptile Awareness Program

The Georgian Bay shoreline is blessed with an exceptional variety of rare Ontario reptiles. Many of these species are listed as Species of Concern for Ontario and

Canada. Any sightings of reptiles (turtles, snakes, lizards, or crocodiles - although crocodiles are not to be expected in this part of the world) should be reported to the naturalist staff at the George Lake Campground.

Annual Christmas Bird Count (Dec. 20th)

Killarney is open year round and busy with bird-life even in the coldest of months. Strap on the snowshoes and join us for our annual Christmas Bird Count. Potluck dinner to follow.

Included: Binoculars, bird identification guides, leadership and warm beverages.

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.

Join us and become an important part of the monitoring success at Killarney!

Applause! Applause!

Killarney Provincial Park is fortunate to have the assistance and support of many individuals and groups. Our sincere thanks to all those (named and un-named) who have helped to keep Killarney safe, clean and wild.

Killarney Natural Heritage Education (NHE)

Killarney Provincial Park NHE department is blessed with a superb team of dedicated staff and volunteers. These amazing individuals devote a lot of time and energy into providing exciting and valuable programs to the many visitors to the park. Killarney Park appreciates the hard work and many contributions made by staff, Ontario Rangers, volunteers, and guest speakers. Killarney would specifically like to thank the following individuals and groups:

Marlies Schoenefeld, The Sudbury District Field Naturalists, The Sudbury Ornithological Society, Chris Blomme, Bruce Waters, Bill and Danielle Gardner, Esther Osche, Don Johnston, Cathy and

Doug Robinson, Kevin Callan, Andy Lowe, Betty Battye, Andy Fyon, Julie Moskalyk and Dan Chaput from Science North, Dr. Shelley Arnott, Kim Rae and the Killarney Ontario Rangers and the Friends of Killarney Park.

Killarney's 2005 Loon Survey

Staff and volunteers conduct loon surveys in May and August each year. Data obtained helps determine the present health of park loon populations and identifies relationships between loons and the health of Killarney's lakes. Both the spring and summer surveys were a great success. Thank you to all whom braved the mosquitoes of May and the sun of August.

Killarney's Sixth Annual Butterfly Count

This one day event took place July 17th, 2005. On a rainy day that allowed for only 4 hours of survey work a total of 24 species were identified and over 90 butterflies were counted this year. Groups of enthusiastic staff and volunteers had a wonderful time chasing these elusive insects around Killarney's fields and forest. Many thanks

to those dedicated individuals who participated in last year's count; A special thank you to Group Leaders Fraser Gibson, Peter Raspberry, Randy Moratz, John Lemon and Julie Moskalyk for their expert guidance and assistance. We hope to see you again this year.

Breeding Bird Atlas

Killarney's birdlife found themselves the focus of attention from binocular clad, field guides wielding volunteers. These volunteers recorded over 140 species of breeding birds for the Killarney region.

Christmas Bird Count

A Gyrfalcon, a Great Horned Owl and a Black-backed Woodpecker were the highlights for this past year's count. In total 927 birds were sighted and 29 species identified. Congratulations to the many hardy participants.

Adopt a Site

Killarney's "Adopt a Site" program is in full swing thanks to the hard work of a host of volunteers. Killarney Provincial Park would like to thank the hundreds of volun-

teers who cleaned and reconditioned our many trails, roadways and campsites. Please join us in maintaining the natural beauty of Killarney Provincial Park.

Staff Accomplishments:

Congratulations to Killarney Park's Lisa Fisk for being one of 40 summer students from across the province to receive an Ontario Parks - Partners Bursary in 2005. Lisa earned this award through excellence in customer service and outstanding work performance throughout various positions at the park last summer. Lisa is the sixth Killarney staff member in a row to receive this annual award. Killarney is very proud of its award-winning staff.

Nominations for the 2006 Ontario Parks - Partners Bursary maybe submitted by fellow staff or park visitors. If you feel that one of our students have demonstrated exceptional customer service, initiative and/or leadership please consider nominating them for this award. Ask at the park office for details on submitting a nomination.

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Acknowledge a job well done

Each year, our corporate partners recognize outstanding young people who work in Ontario's provincial parks with an Ontario Parks Partners Bursary. Students who demonstrate exceptional customer service, initiative and leadership are eligible for the bursary. Recipients receive a grant of \$500 towards their education.

You can nominate any student working in Ontario Parks by completing a nomination form before September 15. Ask at the Park Office for more details.



A "Wet Blanket" on Campfires?



Sitting by a campfire, gazing into glowing embers, it's easy to let your imagination wander to ancient times. A campfire may be one of the few experiences we share with our ancestors. They relied on fire for warmth, cooking... and their very survival.

While pondering this, consider that while campfires seem important to our modern wilderness experience, they are, in fact, a bit of an indulgence, especially in high use areas like Killarney.

Today, campfires create the single greatest impact in the park interior. First, there is the very real danger of fires getting out of control, with disastrous results! During a Fire Ban, you must show park staff your stove to receive an interior permit.

Recent park fires warn us of the consequences of careless actions. O.S.A. Lake: a campfire built on an island with no designated campsite is not thoroughly extinguished, the wind stirs up embers, blowing them into nearby brush, where a fire starts. La Cloche Silhouette Trail: embers left behind by campers burn down to the duff layer, roots smolder and the fire travels beneath the soil until it flares up in dry vegetation. Chikanishing Trail: a smoking cigarette is carelessly tossed away, igniting dry grass. In each case, had different weather conditions prevailed, things could have been much, much worse.

Campfires also create other impacts, creating fire-scarred rocks and scorched earth. That's why it's so important to only build fires in

the one designated firepit on your campsite. Dismantling and cleaning up extra fire pits creates a lot of work for backcountry rangers, whose time could be better spent on other tasks. Numerous sites of blackened bedrock from "extra" firepits leave few clean spots to pitch a tent. In addition, some people use fire pits as garbage dumps, leaving partially burned garbage, food scraps, and even diapers for other campers to deal with.

The popularity of campfires also results in the depletion of deadwood near heavily used campsites. Countless campers glean every scrap of downed or standing deadwood, leaving nothing for future campfires.

There is nothing left for nature either. Think what would otherwise happen to dead trees. Left standing, they make excellent nest sites and perches for wildlife. Once fallen they decay, providing habitat for insects and small animals. Eventually they decay into the organic matter and soil of the forest floor.

Once all the dead wood is gone, some desperate campers turn to cutting live trees for fuel. Not only does this wet, green wood make for a lousy campfire, this destruction of live vegetation further ruins the campsite and compromises its ecological integrity.

With so many potential problems, one may wonder why fires are allowed at all! Certainly fire still fulfills an important emotional need as we seek a wilder, simpler experience away from everyday life. But why not cook all your meals on a stove, and

indulge in an occasional, small, well-tended campfire as a special treat. Using this approach you will be doing your part to reduce environmental degradation in Killarney's backcountry. With modern lightweight stoves, warm high-tech clothing and reliable camping gear, campfires are no longer crucial for survival.

Think of creative alternatives. A candle lantern provides enough light for evening

chores, or as a small beacon to show you the way back to your site after a moonlight paddle. Wonderful evenings can be enjoyed without campfires, tuning your senses to the night world around you. Imagine, lying stretched out on a smooth rock under the night sky, gazing up at the stars and dreaming—another pastime which we have in common with our prehistoric ancestors!

A Few Campfire Do's and Don'ts

DO:

- cook with a lightweight camp stove as much as possible;
- use only the existing fire pit on your site;
- keep campfires small; they are easier to control and require less wood for fuel;
- let your fire burn down to ashes before putting it out. This reduces the amount of charred wood left in the fire pit;
- make sure your fire is totally out before you leave your campsite or turn in for the night—fires left to burn out on their own may appear to be out, but often get stirred up by the wind;
- collect only deadwood, well away from your campsite;
- use only your hands to break pieces of deadwood.



DO NOT:

- leave your campfire unattended—this is extremely hazardous; it's also a waste of wood if you're not there to enjoy it;
- take wood from near the campsite. Never cut live trees;
- make additional fire pits on your campsite—use the one already there;
- burn anything other than wood—do not burn food scraps, plastics or diapers in your fire since this leaves an unsightly and unhealthy mess.
- build a fire if it is extremely windy, or if there is a Fire Restriction in effect.

REMEMBER:

- drown your campfire thoroughly with water, stirring with a stick until it is cold to the touch;
- decaying deadwood plays an important role in replenishing nutrients to forest soils;
- both standing and fallen deadwood is important habitat for cavity nesters, salamanders and many forest bugs;

West Nile virus: Camping.

Wear mosquito netting, long sleeves and long pants in heavily wooded areas. Use bug repellent containing DEET and avoid mosquito areas especially from dusk to dawn when they're most active. Make sure your tent or cabin can keep the bugs out. To learn more visit our Web site or call for a brochure.

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The following information will help you make reservations at Killarney Provincial Park, and at many other provincial parks in Ontario.

**1-888-ONT-PARK
(1-888-668-7275)**

The telephone number for Ontario Parks Reservation Service is:

1-888-ONT-PARK (1-888-668-7275)

The service is offered in English and French, and a TDD number is provided.

TDD number— (519) 742-9323

www.ontarioparks.com

For full details concerning Ontario Parks Reservation Service, please consult Ontario Parks "Parks Guide 2006", available through provincial parks, Ontario Travel Centres and many other locations.

Ontario Parks "Parks Guide 2006" provides a summary of current information on all of Ontario's Provincial Parks, Fee Schedules, Reservations, Parks Activity Guide/Special Events schedules, and many other items.

Killarney Reservation Dates for 2006 and 2007

Reservations for Killarney Provincial Park are offered for the following dates:

Year 2006

Campground: May 19 - October 1, 2006

Interior: April 28 - October 9, 2006

Year 2007

Campground: May 18 - September 30, 2007

Interior: May 1 - October 7, 2007

Reservations are not taken for periods outside of the dates indicated above. Campsite availability during the non-reservation period is generally good. Campers wanting current information on site/route availability during the non-reservation period are asked to call the park information line (705) 287-2900 during regular office hours.

Need park-specific information? (705) 287-2900

Never been to Killarney? Or maybe you just can't remember the number of your favourite campsite under that big white pine? Perhaps you need a little advice on hiking trail distances, or a canoe route suitable for your family. By all means, call us—park staff will be pleased to assist you with information on Killarney.

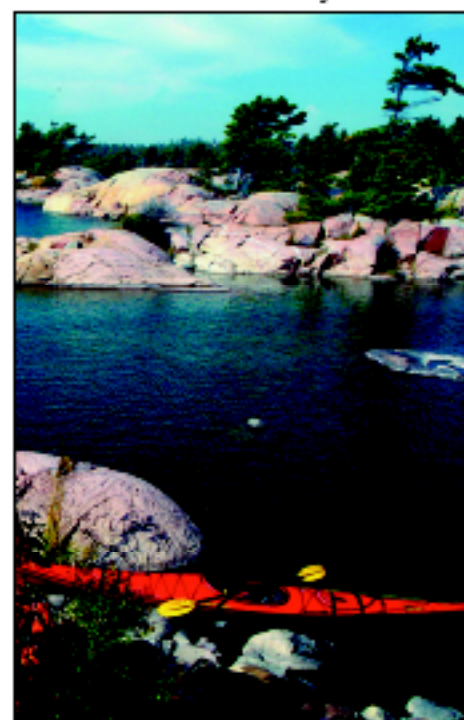


Photo by Jerry Solty

2006 Fees*:

Reservations\$12.00	Interior Camping Fees (Year-round)
Changes/cancellations See Below	Adults.....\$9.00/person/night
Campground Fees* (June 24-Sept. 5)	Youths.....\$4.25/person/night
George Lake Campground.....\$28.50/site	(6-17 years of age)
Ontario Senior Citizens.....\$24.50/site	Ontario Sr Citizens.....\$7.00/person/night
Persons with disabilities.....\$14.25/site	Persons with
*reduced rates apply in shoulder seasons	disabilities.....\$4.50/person/night
Day Use Permits	Children (under 6).....no charge
Day Use permit.....\$10.00	Additional Vehicle (A/V) Permits
Ontario Seniors Citizens.....\$8.00	A/V permit.....\$9.50/vehicle
Persons with disabilities.....\$5.00	Ontario Sr. Citizens.....\$7.50/vehicle
Summer vehicle permit.....\$70.00	Persons with disabilities.....\$4.75/vehicle



George Lake

Photo by Deborah Sauvé - www.dsimageing.ca

Reservations: Information you need to know

Always consult a current Killarney map when requesting a reservation for an Interior Trip. When booking, keep your map handy to refer to during the call. Reservation agents cannot make up a route for you—it is up to you to request a route suited to your skill level and time allowance. Many outdoor recreation stores carry Killarney Provincial Park Maps and the Killarney Provincial Park Canoe Guide. Friends of Killarney Park also offer a convenient mail-order service for these publications—it's easy—just contact the Friends of Killarney Park at (705) 287-2800.

Other details you should have handy when making a reservation include:

- Park Name;
- Type of camping (campground or interior);
- For campground reservations—type of site required (eg. tent or trailer—if trailer, provide trailer length);
- Number in party;
- Vehicle Licence Number
- a Visa/MasterCard/Amex number, and expiry date. Payment may also be made by cheque or money order, payable to the Minister of Finance. Specific conditions, which will be

explained when you make the reservation, apply to payments by cheque/money order.

If reserving for another party all the above information is needed for the person who will be checking in for the group.

Before calling to make your reservation, we recommend that you have several choices prepared for routes or sites, in case your first choice is not available. By providing several options, reservation agents can better meet your needs.

Reservation Confirmations

After you have made your reservation booking, reservation agents will confirm all the details of your trip. The information that has been booked for your reservation will be repeated to you as it appears on their computer screen. When reviewing these details make sure you check this verbal confirmation of your reservation with a calendar. Once you are satisfied that your booking details are correct, and that you are in agreement with what has been booked for you, you will be given a Confirmation Number that guarantees your reservation. A follow-up confirmation letter will be mailed out to you for your records.

Reservation Changes? Call 1-888-ONT-PARK

If you want to change the route, or dates of your reservation, phone 1-888-668-7275 (1-888-ONT-PARK). Please note that a \$9.00 fee applies to each change you make.

Have to Cancel? Call 1-888-ONT-PARK

Cancellation Fee Policy Changed 2005!

Please check either the Ontario Parks website at www.ontarioparks.com or check the 2006 Ontario Parks Guide for information about our cancellation fee structure.

Delayed? Call (705) 287-2900

Unexpected delays, such as car breakdowns, can happen to the best of us. If you have a reservation, but are delayed, call (705) 287-2900—*this applies to prepaid reservations as well, because vacant prepaid sites are treated as "no-shows" after 8:00 a.m. on the day following the booked arrival date. We will make every effort to accommodate these types of situations. In the summer, park staff take calls from 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Payment

1. Campground:

Site Specific Reservations: When your campground reservation is confirmed, full payment of fees is charged to your credit card. When you arrive, your permit will be ready, allowing you to proceed directly to your campsite.

Non-Specific Site Reservations: If you don't want to pay your camping fees up front, you can request a non-specific site reservation. You still must guarantee your reservation by paying a \$12.00 reservation fee by Visa, MasterCard, Amex, or cheque/money order. In this case, a reservation will be made which holds a site somewhere in the campground. The site is not assigned until your arrival in the park, so choice of site may be severely limited by availability. Please note that you must request this option.

2. Interior:

For interior reservations, full fees are not charged to your credit card unless prepayment is specifically requested. On arrival, you must pay the balance by cash, debit or credit card. You must still provide a Visa, MasterCard, Amex number, or a cheque/money order for \$12.00, plus \$9.00 per each night, to guarantee your reservation.

Ontario Parks Nearby and Natural!

Interested in Ontario's other provincial parks? Ontario Parks "Parks Guide 2006", available at park offices and Ontario Tourism Travel Centres, provides basic information and park phone numbers to get you started! For general park vacancy information during camping season, phone 1-800-ONTARIO. On the web, visit www.OntarioParks.com for a look at many of Ontario's provincial parks, as well as information on park research and management, and other activities carried out by Ontario Parks.

* Information provided is subject to change. Check with park office for current details.

* Fees in the Ontario Parks Guide 2006 are incorrect. The fees have not changed from 2005.

For Your Information



Operating Dates

Peak Season (June 23 - Sept. 4/2006)

The campground and comfort station are fully operational. Park gate attendants will register campers on a daily basis. Drinking water is available in the George Lake campground.

Shoulder Season (May 19 - June 23/2006 and Sept. 4 - Oct. 9/2007)

The campground and comfort station are fully operational. Park gate attendants will register campers on a daily basis. Drinking water is available in the George Lake campground. Lower rates apply to campground campsites.

Off Season (Oct. 9 - May 18/2006)

The park is open for day use and winter camping in the campground as well as the interior. The comfort station is closed and water taps are not operational. The park office is open most days based on staffing; however, park users are able to self-register when the office is closed. The George Lake campground is gated from the first snow until the end of spring melt, so access to all campsites is by foot only. Parking is available at the park office. Regulations prohibiting snowmobiles, and burning cans and bottles in the park interior remain in effect year-round. Lower rates apply to campground campsites.

Note: All park users must possess a valid permit, regardless of the time of year.

If We're Full

If we can't satisfy your reservation request you may want to try these locations:

Chutes Provincial Park

The only provincial park on Highway 17 between Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie and located on the Aux Sables River, Chutes is an excellent stop for Trans-Canada travellers. Tel. (705) 865-2021

Grundy Lake Provincial Park

20 minutes south of the Hwy 637 turnoff, Grundy Lake is only 1 hour away, so you can still visit Killarney. (705) 383-2369.

Lake Superior Provincial Park

Located 1 hour north of Sault Ste. Marie, this park looks over the big waters of Lake Superior. Paddling and hiking opportunities are available, and the scenery is fabulous! Hikes, slide shows and other activities are offered during the summer season. For information, call (705) 856-2284.

Halfway Lake Provincial Park

Located 1 hour north of Sudbury on Highway 144, Halfway Lake has 215 car campsites and 50 interior sites. The interior is not busy and you'll have a good chance of seeing moose. The park boasts a 1 km sand beach, children's playground, Natural Heritage Education programs and a nature centre. (705) 965-2702.

Day Use in other Parks

Have you ever passed by other Provincial Parks on your way home from Killarney and wondered what they were like? The vehicle copy of your campsite permit entitles you to free day-use at any other provincial park in Ontario up until 10:00 p.m. on the "date of departure" marked on your campsite permit. So the next time you want to stretch your legs on the way home, wheel into one of Ontario's other parks, and you will be welcomed with open arms.

Bringing a Group?

Group Information Packages are available for anyone planning on bringing a Youth or Special Group to Killarney.

Do You Qualify?

Some Youth and Special Groups qualify for reduced rates. The Group Information Package will help you determine if you do qualify;

What We Need

If your group does qualify, a request for group use must be submitted on official letterhead following initial contact. **Reduced rates will not apply until this is received.**

Fee Payment

Trip organizers pay by credit card or cash on arrival. Cheques will not be accepted, unless they arrive 21 days before you do.

Registration Information

1. At the time of registration group supervisors must provide the park with their planned itinerary - reservations should be made separately.

2. Supervisors must provide Group Lists, indicating supervisors and youths in each group, and the ages of each group member. It is imperative that this information is received before any members of the group head off on their trip.

Supervision Requirements

All groups require adequate and responsible adult supervision.

In Killarney this means:

Hiking and Campground sites:

• One supervisor: five youth maximum per campsite (1:5 ratio).

Canoe campsites:

One supervisor: five youth per site, or with additional supervision; two supervisors: six or seven youth (2:6/7).

Groups hold a special responsibility to minimize impacts on the park. Larger groups result in more damage unless extreme care is taken. If your group size is greater than six people per site you may want to discuss alternate opportunities with park staff.

Pet Peeves

Every year thousands of campers enjoy the company of their pet as they camp in Ontario's Provincial Parks. However, not everyone enjoys these animals, and as a result there are frequent complaints. Rules in Provincial Parks are designed to ensure that all campers enjoy their stay.

• All pets must be under control and secured by a leash not exceeding 2 metres (6 feet); allowing them to run free or bark can disturb park visitors, wildlife and other pets. Contact with wildlife such as skunks, porcupines and foxes, may result in injury and a very unpleasant trip home or to the vet.

• For health reasons, pets are not allowed in swimming areas on any beach; there is a

designated pet area in the park, near the dam at the west end of George Lake.

• Pets may not be left unattended at your campsite. A dog that barks continually can ruin other campers' vacations.

• You are responsible for cleaning up after your pet; pick up your **stoop and scoop bags** at the park office.



Overflow Camping in Killarney

The park's full? There is no need to leave the Killarney area. There are 2 locations that offer overflow camping right here in Killarney, just 10 km farther down the road, and close enough if you want to hike or paddle in Killarney Provincial Park.

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Roques Marina 287-9900

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Open For All Seasons

Killarney in Winter

The late October wind suddenly has that raw bite to it...

Before you know it December arrives, bringing freezing rain, sleet and snow. Then January settles in. The snow is here to stay, and the lakes finally freeze tight. On windy days the snow swirls into great white clouds, so you'd never know the mountains were out there. On sunny days, in wind-sheltered spots, Killarney is what some people just might call heaven.

Winter offers an exhilarating freshness that can't be experienced in summer. Killarney winters offer up nights of northern lights and star shows, mazes of animal tracks, and a stillness and peace that's hard to imagine.

It's a special time for those who are prepared to get out and meet those cold days and nights head on. The majesty of Killarney Provincial Park in January and February is totally different than in any other season. In winter, skis, snowshoes, extra layers of clothing and lots of high energy snacks are needed to explore the lakes and hills.

Mistakes in winter can prove to be most unforgiving. All winter recreationists should learn their own personal limits, and



Granite Ridge

then respect those limits to ensure comfort as well as safety. First-time winter campers can test gear and skills in George Lake Campground, and later progress to interior trips. Day trips are a good lead-up to overnight trips...and there's nothing wrong with skiing all day, and then being pampered with a fine dinner and warm bed at a town lodges or bed & breakfast. Lakes such as Killarney or Kakakise offer good

day tripping opportunities for intermediate skiers.

Travel on lake ice generally occur from early January until late March, please check the ice conditions before travelling on any frozen body of water. Skiing is a great way to see Killarney, and provides relatively easy access to most of the park. If you're thinking about following the hik-

ing trails, and your backcountry skiing skills aren't well-honed, consider strapping on a pair of snowshoes. Bring your own, or rent a pair when you register. Call ahead for details.

Backcountry etiquette in winter

Most of the time your tracks will be erased by wind or fresh snow not long after your passage, but what can be done to minimize other impacts of your visit?

Winter is very challenging for wildlife; they don't have sleeping bags and high-energy foods to help them bounce back from additional stresses. Don't disturb Killarney's wildlife; camp away from winter feeding, watering and bedding grounds.

Winter camping is not recommended on summer campsites, which are, in any case, often too exposed to provide proper winter shelter. Follow park policy-camp on back-shore areas of low-lying bays, or trek in to smaller, more wind protected lakes which are hard to reach in summer. Always camp at least 30 meters back from shorelines, trails and portages, where impact will be negligible. Think about where your own "personal byproducts" will end up after spring melt. Avoidance of water pollution by proper human waste disposal is one of the most important impact-related factors to consider when deciding where to camp.

Keep campfires small, and remove all evidence by dispersing charcoal and ashes.

Be particularly wary of littering in winter. Snow gives a false sense of cleanliness by covering up gum wrappers, plastic bags and other small bits of garbage.

The best books available on winter camping emphasize low-impact techniques and safety guidelines. Good planning is essential anytime; on a winter trip it may be a life-saver. With preparation, good companionship, and a sunny day or two, your winter trek to Killarney will turn into an annual event that you'll cherish and talk about for years.

Ontario Parks

2006 Photo Contest



Ontario Parks is looking for "a few good pictures". Do you have an amazing photo taken at an Ontario Provincial Park?

Send us your best pictures and a completed entry form, and you could be a winner.

It could win you A DIGITAL CAMERA or one of many must-have prizes from our partners. There are four categories:

- Parks and People
- Park Landscapes
- Flora and Fauna
- Winter Memories

For complete details on prizes and contest rules and regulations, please visit www.ontarioparks.com

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Toronto 400 King St. West, 416-340-2667

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Located next to the Amphitheatre and recently renovated by the Friends of Killarney Park, the Warm-Up Cabin is a great place to sit by a wood-fired stove, drink hot cocoa and reminisce about your day in Killarney's Winter Wonderland.

Firewood Available at the George Lake Office

Winter Warm-Up Cabin

A little log cabin by the lake...
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The Roof Has Been Raised

Dear Friends:

Construction of the new Killarney Health Centre is now complete! Everyone is extremely proud of this accomplishment.

The Health Centre is absolutely vital to the well being of the community, especially in this remote location. Permanent and seasonal residents, along with tourists and visitors, understand just how crucial good health care is to all of us. We are fortunate to have this new facility, allowing staff to better provide the excellent care we know we can count on. The dedicated staff are now "up and running" in this vastly improved setting.

The new Health Centre is conveniently situated near the ambulance building in the centre of town. The one-story building has sufficient space for improved patient comfort and privacy, which was sorely lacking previously.

Many volunteers and donors were responsible for moving this project forward. To date, \$380,000 has been raised, thanks to donations from individuals, corporations and organizations alike. There have also been a number of successful fundraising events.

The Health Centre Building Committee is appreciative of the generosity and support from many that has allowed us to get this far. As successful as the fundraising has been, there is still a way to go before completing all the finishing touches. The overall cost to furnish, equip and set up the Health Centre is \$502,000. The Killarney Health Centre continues to seek the \$100,000 balance for necessary features and equipment. All of us can play a role in helping provide the best care possible. New contributions and fundraising ideas are encouraged and appreciated. You may call (705-287-2300) anytime to lend your support.

The Killarney Health Centre volunteers and staff wish to extend their heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all those who have generously contributed thus far.



If you wish to contribute to this project, please send your donation to:

Killarney Health Centre Board
Attention: Fund Raising Committee
32 Commissioner Street
Killarney, ON P0M 2A0

With the continued generosity and support of the community, seasonal residents and visitors to the area, the new Health Centre facility will soon become a reality.



Killarney Health Centre Board

Name: _____

Address: _____

Amount \$ _____ ☐ Cheque ☐ Cash

Thank you for supporting the Killarney Health Centre.

A tax receipt will be issued.

Killarney Health Centre Board
Attention: Fund Raising Committee
32 Commissioner Street
Killarney, ON P0M 2A0

BEAR WISE

**Prepare
and be aware
at your campsite.**



When enjoying Ontario's campsites, lakes, forests and hiking trails, it's wise to remember that you are in the natural habitat of black bears. To avoid conflicts with bears, remember to:

- **Never** feed or approach a bear
- Never cook, eat or store **any** food, cooking gear or toiletries in your tent – reduce or eliminate food odours by keeping your campsite clean
- Store food and garbage, including your pet's food, so that bears cannot reach it – in the trunk of your car or hanging at least 4 metres (13 feet) above the ground
- Use bear resistant waste containers where available – pack out all garbage from the backcountry

For bear emergencies, call:

(Insert park bear emergency phone number and/or local police/911. Insert one or more numbers as is appropriate for local needs. In smaller print and below the emergency numbers, always include the Bear Wise Centre info as follows.)

For more information, you can also contact the Bear Wise Centre at:
1 866 514-2327 (1 866 514-BEAR) or TTY 705 945-7641. bears.mnr.gov.on.ca



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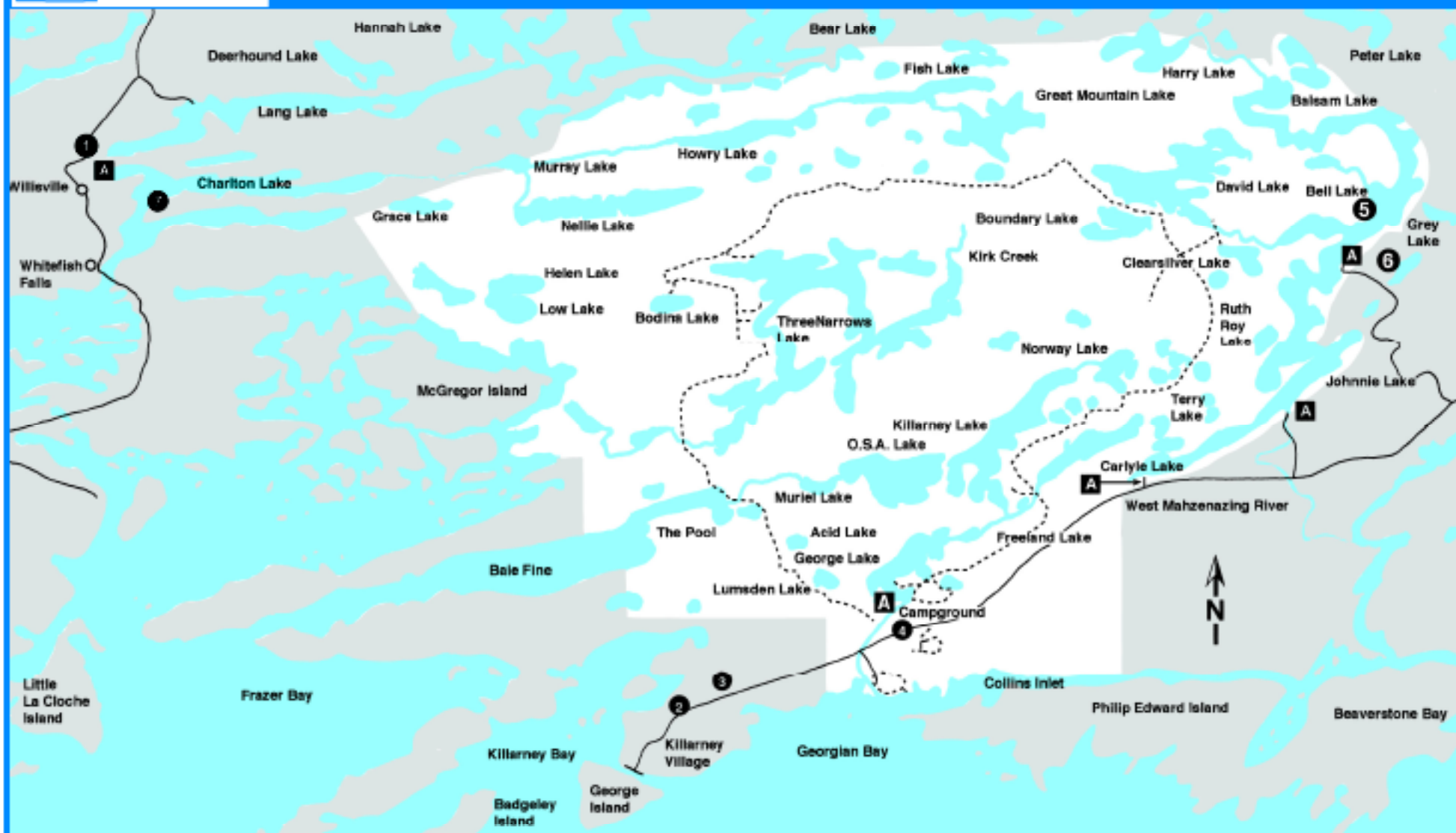
Web Site: www.sourisriver.com

Photo © John Stradotto



ONTARIO
PARKS

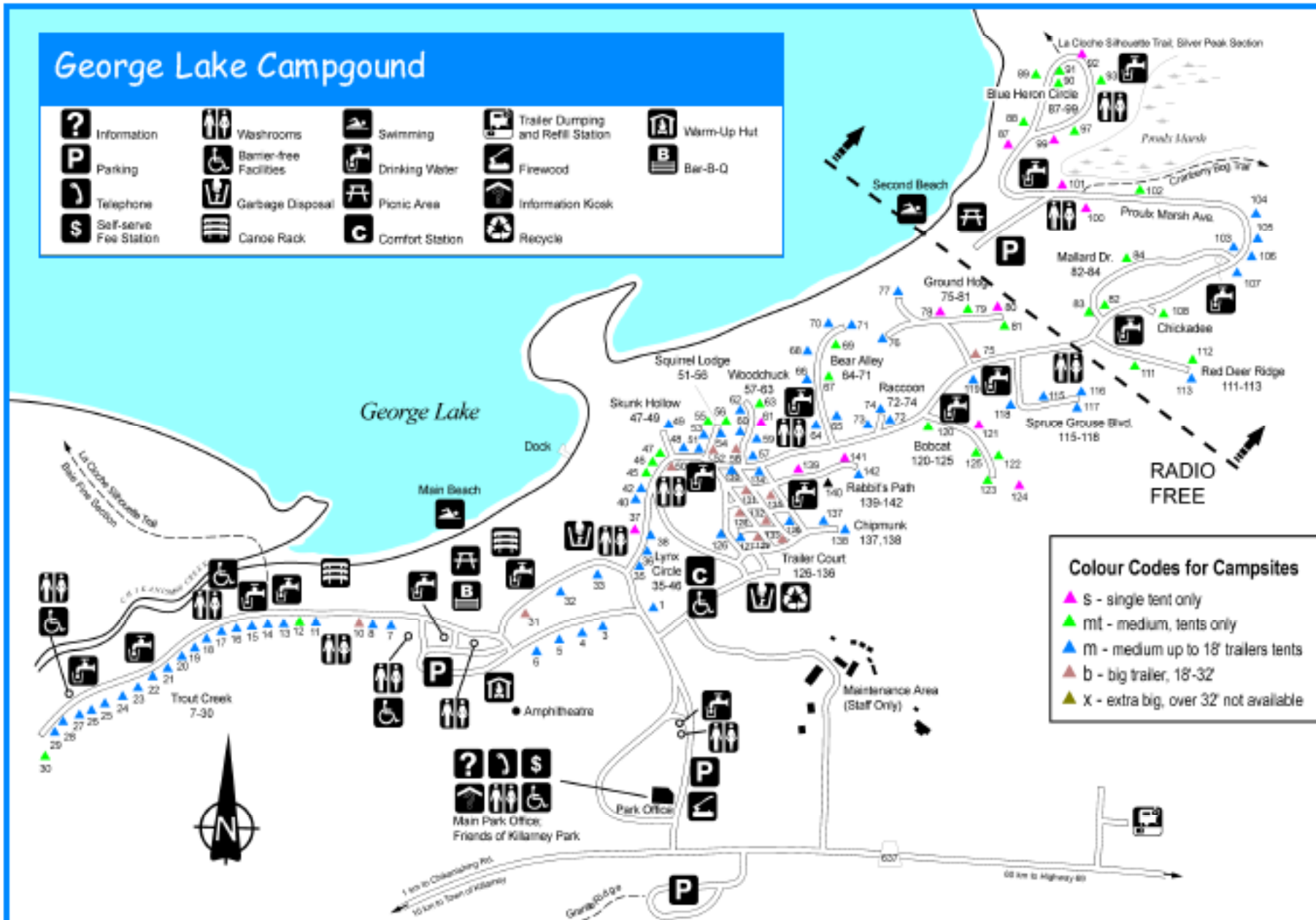
Killarney Provincial Park Boundary Map



- A** Interior Access --- Hiking Trail
- | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Widwaga Lodge | 3 Killarney Outfitters | 5 Blue Mountain Lodge |
| 2 Shebanoning Lodge | 4 Park Office/Gatehouse | 6 Killarney Canoes |
| | | 7 Charleton Lake Camp |
- NOTE:** New access point for Charlton Lake is Widwaga Lodge

George Lake Campground

- | | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|-------------|
| ? Information | Washrooms | Swimming | Trailer Dumping and Refill Station | Warm-Up Hut |
| P Parking | Barrier-free Facilities | Drinking Water | Firewood | Bar-B-Q |
| Telephone | Garbage Disposal | Picnic Area | Information Kiosk | |
| Self-serve Fee Station | Canoe Rack | Comfort Station | Recycle | |



Colour Codes for Campsites

- S - single tent only
- mt - medium, tents only
- M - medium up to 18' trailers tents
- b - big trailer, 18'-32'
- X - extra big, over 32' not available

Park maps are available from these Ontario outlets:

Friends of Killarney Park
(705) 287-2800
www.friendsofkillarneypark.ca

Suntrail Outfitters Hwy 6 Hepworth
near Owen Sound (519) 935-2478

Federal Publications
www.fedpubs.com 1-888-433-3782

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