



# PADDLES & TRAILS 2017

## In this issue

Upcoming events

A message from  
our Board President

Highlights from 2016

Pine Plantation  
Rehabilitation

Reflections: Artist in  
Residence program

Thanks to our 2016  
donors and sponsors

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## Upcoming events

### Spring Clean-up Weekend

May 6 and 7, 2017

Held each year in May, the Spring Clean-up Weekend is a great opportunity to lend a hand and help prepare the Park for the busy camping season to come.

## Save the date

### Annual General Meeting

July 8, 2017

### Art Show & Sale

July 29 and 30, 2017

# A message from our Board President

Dear Friends,

Welcome to a new year and best wishes for a healthy and fulfilling 2017 from the staff and Board of Directors of the Friends of Killarney Park (FOKP). Winter is well underway in Killarney with no shortage of activities for visitors in pristine wilderness conditions. We hope that you will all have a chance to visit the Park over the coming months and enjoy each season as it unfolds.

In this issue of Paddles & Trails, we reflect on 2016 – FOKP’s 30th anniversary year – and celebrate our accomplishments during that time. Once again, we invested substantial funds (over \$34,000) in a variety of initiatives that support the environmental, educational and recreational goals of Killarney Provincial Park.

We also began to focus on encouraging the public to help protect the Park and “leave no trace” of their visit – a message that is becoming increasingly important as the number of visitors to the Park rises to an all-time high. We’ve already installed signage at key access points and added a new section to our website devoted to this cause. Throughout 2017, we will continue to work closely with Ontario Parks Superintendent Jeremy Pawson to develop other effective means of communicating this essential message to Park users.

None of these initiatives would have been possible without your generous support. Thanks to our dedicated members, donors and volunteers 2016 was one of our best fundraising years yet! We are also very grateful to Jeremy and his team of committed staff for their ongoing support of our work.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of my highly skilled and talented Board colleagues and FOKP staff, all of whom are equally invested in continuing the important work the Friends have accomplished in the past as well as planning for a successful future.

We hope to see you in Killarney soon. In the meantime, please visit [friendsofkillarneypark.com](http://friendsofkillarneypark.com), connect with us on social media or sign up for our e-newsletters to get the latest updates.

Warmest wishes,



Mary Ann West  
Board President  
Friends of Killarney Park



# 2016 HIGHLIGHTS

## Spring Clean-up Weekend

On May 7 and 8, more than 90 volunteers joined us for the annual Spring Clean-up Weekend. Together we cleaned and rehabilitated campsites, planted trees, built boardwalks and kiosks, and more. We also kicked off our 30th anniversary celebration. Thank you to all our dedicated volunteers who joined us! We look forward to seeing you again for the 2017 clean-up on May 6 and 7.

## Baie Fine interpretive signage

Baie Fine is a popular, though remote, access point reached mainly by boat. We produced a sign to be installed at this access point to provide key messages and information about the Park's natural and cultural in both official languages.

## Backcountry workshops

In July, we helped 20 new or inexperienced wilderness travelers plan safe, exciting and low impact adventures. Thank you to Laurie Bowers and Friends who shared their learnings from decades of trips in Killarney and other wilderness areas during our backcountry travel education workshops.

## Granite Ridge naturalization

We completed the first plot of the Granite Ridge naturalization project. In the pages to come, Park Superintendent Jeremy Pawson shares details on this long-term project to maintain the forest's ecological integrity.



## Graffiti removal

Last summer we were saddened to learn that a rock wall on the George Lake shore was vandalized with spray paint. As part of our commitment to protecting the Park, we fully funded the removal of the graffiti and are happy to report that George Lake has now been returned to its natural state.

## Art Show & Sale

Over 300 art lovers joined us at the annual Art Show and Sale at the Killarney Community Centre in July. Ten talented artists shared the beauty of the landscape of Killarney through their inspired works of painting, photography and other handmade items. We hope you'll save the date for the 2017 event on July 29 and 30.

## Artist in Residence program

In its seventh year, the Artist in Residence program ran in July and August for a total of four weeks of instruction with featured artists: David Doyle, Christy A. Smith, Danielle Gardner and Pierre Sabourin. In total, over 350 visitors connected with nature by taking part.

## Summer concerts

Our eighth annual Summer Concert Series featured performances by Jory Nash, Skarni, Murray James O'Brien and David Archibald. Over 500 visitors were entertained at the Park's amphitheatre. Stay tuned for the 2017 lineup.

## Algonquin Wolf in Killarney Park

Wolves have been making headlines lately and new provincial legislation has extended protection for Eastern Wolves (*Canis sp. cf. lycaon*) in areas around Killarney Provincial Park. With the continued support of Friends of Killarney Park, genetic analysis recently identified a second major population of Eastern Wolves (aka "Algonquin Wolves") inside and just east of the Park boundaries. This is exciting news for the species, which is Threatened in Canada and in Ontario. The protection extends to Eastern Coyotes, an abundant canid species in the area, because of the difficulty distinguishing Eastern Coyotes from Eastern Wolves. *By Linda Rutledge, Adjunct Professor, Trent University*

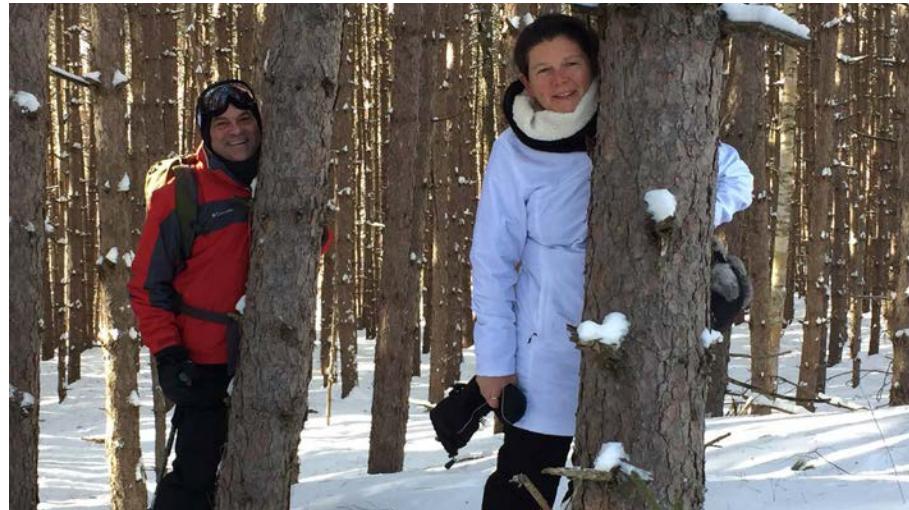
Visit [friendsofkillarneypark.com/research](http://friendsofkillarneypark.com/research) to learn more about the Eastern Wolf Study.

## Backcountry rehabilitation

As part of a multi-year sustainability program we built more than 200 metres of boardwalks from Bell Lake to David Lake, and moved or replaced twelve privies on George Lake and Killarney Lake. This means thousands of visitors can enjoy a safe wilderness experience, while limiting their ecological footprint on the landscape.

## Adopt a trail

Before setting out for a hike, stop at the Park office. We give you a bag; you collect any garbage you find along the way. Come back to the office after your hike to receive a badge.



## Emerging Artist Mentorship

**NEW!** This coming summer, we are providing one emerging artist (ages 19 to 29) with an opportunity to enhance their artistic skills.

The selected emerging artist will work closely with Artist in Residence, Christy A. Smith, in the Park. They will receive personalized art lessons and learn about how to teach art to a group. A complimentary campsite and art supplies will also be provided.

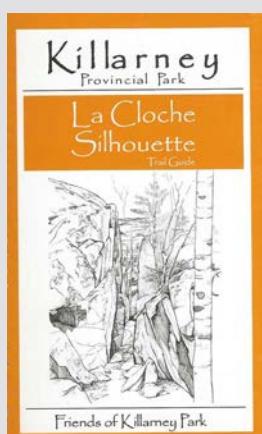
The application form for summer 2017 can be found on our website.

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Proceeds help fund our ongoing projects and programs.



[friendsofkillarneyparkstore.com](http://friendsofkillarneyparkstore.com)

# PINE PLANTATION REHABILITATION PILOT PROJECT BY PARK SUPERINTENDENT JEREMY PAWSON

In the spring of 2016, Killarney Provincial Park began the Pine Plantation Rehabilitation Pilot Project in three small areas located along the Granite Ridge Trail.

The basis for this project stems from an Ontario Parks best practices guide for managing plantations in protected areas, particularly in wilderness-class parks like Killarney, to promote ecological integrity. The intent is to remove small plots of trees and create gaps in the Plantation's canopy to allow sunlight to reach the forest floor.

You may ask yourself "How is cutting down trees healthy for the ecological integrity of the park?" While I will never say that planting a tree is a bad thing, there is a right and wrong way to do so when the primary objective is to create a healthy ecosystem.

The next time you take a walk through a park or trail near your home, take a look around. You may notice a number of tree species, some undergrowth or new growth on the forest floor, some birds flying around or (if it's the right time of year) some flowers blooming. These are all signs of a healthy forest where natural processes have been able to take place without interference.

The same cannot be said for the types of plantations in Killarney Provincial Park because about 30 years ago, with the best of intentions, a planting project took place to fill in some gaps around the George Lake area. This resulted in a very dense forest with no light penetration, only one species of tree and very little wildlife activity. Natural processes were not able to take place creating a monoculture (single crop) forest.

Our hope is that by creating gaps in the canopy, other tree species will spread. Believe it or not, some shade-tolerant species such as maple may lay dormant in the soil for very long periods of time and will begin to grow once they have access to sunlight. We will also be monitoring for certain indicator species such as Salamanders to use as a benchmark for success.

So, if you have an opportunity to take a hike on the Granite Ridge Trail and compare these plots to other areas of the plantation, I think you will be pleasantly surprised. Nature has a funny way of working things out when we decide not to "speed up the process". It may not be as pretty as a mature maple or hemlock stand, however, it is exactly what it is supposed to be. The beauty is in the eye of the beholder!

Thank you to the Friends of Killarney Park for your support of this very important project.



# REFLECTIONS: ARTIST IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM

## BY DAVID DOYLE

To be honest, it was an honour. That's how I felt about being selected as an Artist in Residence at Killarney Provincial Park. There is so much artistic history in the area and I was thrilled to be a part of it. Sharing that experience with others was a special bonus.

You might think that it's just a pleasant program offered by Friends of Killarney Park to enhance your experience in the Park. It is that, and so much more. Programs such as this one play a very important role in enriching the experience we gain from the beauty of Killarney Provincial Park. Our interactions here honour those who made the effort to preserve the Park for all of us. Visitors who have participated in creating art in the park, who have put their pieces on their walls, contribute to its legacy and help to perpetuate its importance for future generations.

During my week as an Artist in Residence, the weather was fantastic - no wash outs or delays. Each morning as our group assembled at the Nature Centre gathering our materials and getting prepared to paint, there was an energy that could be felt. Everyone was there because they wanted to be a part of something special, something bigger than any of us. We painted together, learned from each other, and shared our creations with each other. We took the time to really look at our surroundings and to try to create our own unique responses to what we saw. I hope everyone had fun. I found the experience inspiring. I am very much looking forward to repeating it again this coming summer. And this year, being our country's 150th birthday, makes it even more important to get out there and enjoy what Canada has to offer.

### Honouring Brian Soehner

This past year Brian Soehner was designated as the organization's 10th Honourary Lifetime Member. For over 25 years, Brian has been a passionate supporter of FOKP. He has served in governance roles including president and secretary and has been deeply involved in making events such as the Spring Clean-up Weekend a big success.

Photo captions (Right): FOKP president Mary Ann West and Park Superintendent Jeremy Pawson present Brian with a token of appreciation for his service. (Below, Left): Artist in Residence David Doyle. (Below, Right): Painting by David Doyle.



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