Yesterday, I was walking barefoot on Middle Saranac beach. It was hot, even a little muggy. Sunbathers emerged along the sand like pale spring flowers, blinking at the sun.

Today, snow is blowing sideways past my window. People on the street march along hunched in their winter coats.

It's this anything-can-happen-here quality that keeps me rooted in the Adirondacks. There's plenty of big drama—say, when engineers blast the massive bones of the Crown Point bridge into the blackwater of Lake Champlain; or when hordes of national reporters flood in to cover one of our cantankerous special Congressional elections.

But often the surprises come in smaller packages. Skiing for the first time on Big Tupper—that was a highlight. Celebrating the life of conservationist Clarence Petty, who passed away at the venerable age of 104. Sitting in a VFW hall in Lyon Mountain as prison guards wrestled with a hard and uncertain future.

Those moments felt like discoveries, like tiny pivot points.

One of the brightest moments of the last year? That was spending some quiet afternoons with Bill Demong, his mom Helen and his dad Leo during the build-up to the ... about the importance of our community here, and about the fascinating paths that lead our kids outward, into the vast world.

Watching Bill capture the gold medal felt like an affirmation, clear evidence that all these small things can occasionally add up to something bigger, something tangible.

When I look at the stories that the Adirondack bureau produces—stories that your support makes possible—this is the conviction I carry. Today it might be snowing. In March it might be killing cold. But in all of it there's a tale to tell, and occasionally that story turns out to be bigger than any of us understood.

Thanks once again for helping us maintain the resources and spirit that keep NCPR strong in the Park. Your contribution is another of those pivot points, another small, crucial affirmation. —Brian Mann

Cali Brooks and Galen Crane, Lake Placid

"In an increasingly globalized world, NCPR ensures that towns around the Adirondack region stay connected. We, along with my parents, Marcia and Jim Brooks, are proud to be the local news source for a multi-county, multi-ethnic community. Our support for the NCPR service fund is a testament to our commitment to our region. —Marcia Brooks, Lake Placid"

"The Adirondack bureau continues to break new ground covering the insidious spread of ‘whitenose’ syndrome, the invasive disease that is destroying bat colonies in the region. This spring we documented stories from caverns deep underground and from the halls of Congress as scientists scramble to protect remnant bat populations. —Late October, 2010"
Ellen Rocco, Station Manager:

There are some things I’ve been a part of that have made a tangible difference in the world around me. These include: adding my body to the mass of people working to create, for example, the Adirondack Nonprofit Network. When we talked about the work of the Adirondack Nonprofit Network to raise funds for the non-profit world, and to recognize the impact of nonprofits on our quality of life and well-being. One spring night, Jake Satter and I co-hosted a three-hour special, ‘Adirondack News Bureau’ led by Brian Mar. Working with others to make a difference has brought great satisfaction and tangible results. Most recently, we worked with the Adirondack Community Trust and the new Adirondack Community Trust. Thanks to everyone who’s leaned into the work with us. —Ellen

NCPR Station Manager
Ellen Rocco delivering commencement speech at Paul Smith’s College, May 2010. The College awarded her an honorary Doctor of Letters.