

# South Tea Echo



**THE VOICE OF CAMP TAMAKWA • ALGONQUIN PARK**

- Amy Sky puts Tamakwa in tune
- Democracy in action, camp-style
- Head Chef takes on a tall order
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- New twist in intercamp rivalry
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- Jerusalem orchestra performs on the Slope
- Tamakwa's leading role in *Spider-Man*



## THE BEST OF SUMMER 2002



# Camp Tamakwa, Ink.

All the news that's Fiddes to print

When Robert Sarner proposed the name for this newspaper, *South Tea Echo*, we said, "Could you please repeat that?" (*South Tea Echo*; try saying that seven times fast.)

Then we said, "Robert, you obviously have an astute journalistic mind. Having witnessed for the very first time our age-old tradition of 400 Tamakwans on the Slope chanting *Woof Woof* at the top of our lungs in unison hoping that our collective voices will cause an echo to reverberate from one distant shore to another, you saw in that the opportunity to cleverly play on the word *echo* which is a common newspaper title. Good for you, good man."

What we really thought was, "*Schlect*, why didn't we think of that?"

Such a name for a Tamakwa newspaper is a natural. And so is Robert when



New publishing moguls Dave and Vic

it comes to creativity and marrying journalism to camp fun. He did so at another camp for several summers in the form of *Kol Ramah*, the voice of Camp Ramah. When we saw their newspaper, we were insane with jealousy. (Some may debate whether it was out of jealousy.) Little did we know then that fate would bring Robert and his whole family from Jerusalem to Camp Tamakwa for the summer of 2002. We are delighted with fate in this case.

The *South Tea Echo* was published against considerable odds. The closest we ever came to a summertime newspaper is the *Beaver Cuttings*, which is a compilation of staff and campers' end of season reminiscences hastily "edited" in the order they were submitted and printed (until recently) on a machine known to your grandparents as a mimeograph. You could tell when someone had just read their *Beaver Cuttings*; they

either smelled like a fifth grade spelling test sheet or they had black ink all over their hands and lap.

But the *Echo* is quite different. This is a combination newspaper and end-of-season yearbook. You get lots of photos – thanks to Robert and Libby Sadick von Neumann. It's in colour. And it is written largely by Robert, a veteran journalist and editor who – like many of the other staff contributors – is seeing Tamakwa from the outside in. Many of us are entrenched in the world of Tamakwa. What's especially

interesting and refreshing is reading about camp through the eyes of those experiencing the traditions, the atmosphere, the personalities, and the shtick for the very first time. And writing about it in "journalese".

That's pretty cool.

Having never done a real newspaper at camp, it took us a while to provide the kind of computers, workspace, support help, and time that it takes to produce the bona fide newspaper that you now hold in your hands.

Keep in mind that Robert had other duties at camp, often called upon at the drop of a hat to drive to town, take someone to the dentist, pick up supplies, fetch someone at the airport, or all of the above in one day. No doubt many of his stories were culled in his mind while winding his way along scenic Highways 60 and 400 in the camp van. (That explains why many of the characters in his upcoming novel are named *Dwight*.)

Despite the conflicts inherent in trying to write and create while constantly being torn away from his luxurious *South Tea Echo* newsroom in the Yellow Pointer Productions cabin, Robert took it like a *mensch* and in true Tamakwa style showed PMA, a positive mental attitude.

This paper has a lot in common with Robert and his family: interesting, friendly, colourful, fun, and a wonderful addition to Tamakwa 2002. We've enjoyed their children Aviv, Shani and Etye. We've enjoyed the Hobby Hubs which for the first time brought to Tamakwa a taste of the Middle East...not only in the form of Galya's culinary delights but both hers and Robert's enlightening insights from their homeland.

Through his columns in the *Canadian Jewish News* and his *Postcards from Tamakwa* on our website, Robert put Tamakwa on the map. And through their contributions to camp life this summer, they put Israel on Tamakwa's map...and put this keepsake in your hands. Don't worry, the ink shouldn't rub off.

We're proud to be the publishers of the first issue of the *South Tea Echo*. Happy reading.

Vic Norris and Dave Bale, Senior Directors, Camp Tamakwa



HEARD AT MAIN CAMP

## Memories take hold

We asked campers how they perceived Summer 2002, especially as compared to previous years.

**JORDAN WACHLER, 12, (Ranger 5), from Huntington Woods, Michigan, 3<sup>rd</sup> year at Tamakwa.** "I had more fun this year than I did in the past. I made many new friends. I started to enjoy different things, like half-court, fishing and water sports even though I was used to mostly land sports. I learned to enjoy going into the water more, maybe because the weather was better this summer. We could do all our activities outside. The first month, we didn't have even one Z-machine. One of the best things was our 4-day canoe trip which went to Linda Lake."

**DAVID GOTTESMAN, 11, (Ranger 4), Los Angeles, 2<sup>nd</sup> year.** "This summer, I made more stuff in woodshop such as a miniature paddle and a box and received more awards than last year. I had a pretty good cabin but I think I had a little more fun in my cabin last summer. We did a few things that were sort of crazy last year. Most of the activities were the same. The all-day Halloween Day and Disco Day were fun."

**ELANA FOLBE, 9, (Trailblazers 3), Huntington Woods, MI, 2<sup>nd</sup> year.** "Last year, I didn't really understand many things at camp, like with the mini-Colour War. But this summer I understood camp a lot better. Last year, I knew everybody in my cabin. This time, there

were a lot of new people in my cabin, so I made many new friends. The cabin itself was bigger and more comfortable. The canoe trip was one day longer this year and even better. The intercamp was great. I was on the girls softball team for the first time. During my first two weeks of camp, the food tasted better than last year but then in the last two weeks, I didn't like it as much."

**JESSE GOLD, 8, (Forester 1), Toronto, 2<sup>nd</sup> year.** "This summer, I made many new friends, including weird CITs who I will not name. They were just born weird. I really liked wood because I made three projects – a mug holder, my name with sticks and a picture box. I thought the Colour War was good, the theme was great, and I liked it a lot. I went on a canoe trip. I liked our cabin, it was big and the beds were nice."

**MARC CRANE, 15, (CIT), Farmington Hills, MI, 5<sup>th</sup> year.** "This summer was very different. As a CIT, you get the best of both worlds, as a camper and staff. You don't really have the responsibilities of staff but you get some of the privileges of staff. There are less boys than in Senior Boys and they smooch us together with the girls. We were a group of 19 CITs and we bonded so much and be-

come such a tight unit, much more so than in years past. I feel like I've come to know the other CITs so well and we've gotten along so well. It's been one of the best summers of my life. I believe we're going to stay friends for a very long time."

**LAUREN KEPES, 11, (Pioneer 2-3) Bloomfield Hills, MI, 3<sup>rd</sup> year.** "The girls in my cabin were one of the highlights. Last year, a lot of the girls in my cabin were a year older than me so it was harder but this summer we were all the same age. Also the cabin this year was newer and a lot more comfortable. The activity leaders also were a lot better this summer, nicer and more flexible and seemed to have more fun than those last year. I went on a 10-day trip and that was one of the highlights. The only disappointment was that the leaders of the mini-Colour War had less spirit and seemed to have done less planning than last year."

**MADISON DIAMOND, 16, (CIT), Toronto, 8<sup>th</sup> year.** "This summer, things seemed a lot happier, especially compared to last year, when camp was a bit out of control. This summer, I feel the whole camp was a more of a unit, a lot closer. For me personally, I was much closer to my friends. As a camp, there were barely any huge problems. It was really great. The programs were awesome. One of the big things was being a CIT and bonding as a unit, the boys and the girls together, unlike in the past when there was competition. The food too was better, probably because I signed up for veggie this summer."

**IAN GOLDBERG, 13, (Voyageur 2), West Bloomfield, MI, 5<sup>th</sup> year.** "I think the summer was much better because I explored more activities, trying new things and going for more awards. It was one of my best summers ever. My cabin was great. I met a lot of new people. Certainly the two canoe trips were big highlights for me. I enjoyed the all-day programs, especially the Iron Chef. Also I just started canoeing and really got into it and got my 3rd award. The weather was awesome. We only had a few rainy days."

- Interviews by Robert Sarner



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# The summer at a glance

A selective listing of the main events at camp in 2002. Photographs by LIBBY SADICK VON NEUMANN AND ROBERT SARNER

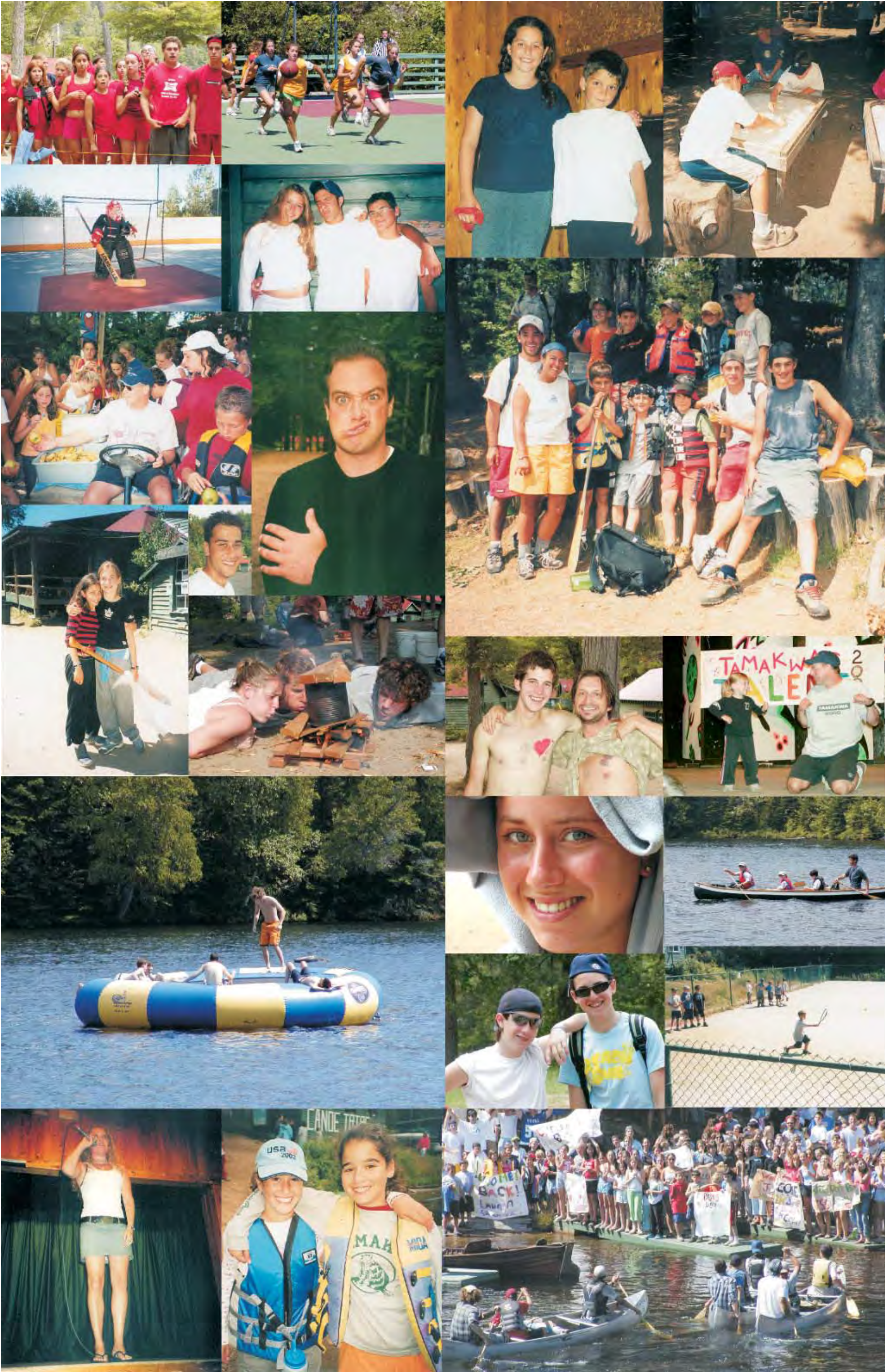
**Mon., June 17** – Head Staff arrive at camp.  
**Wed., June 19** – Activity Leaders arrive at camp.  
**Fri., June 21** – Counselors and Specialists arrive for Pre-Camp.  
**Wed., June 26** - Campers arrive; Noon Way; Cabin Night.  
**Thurs., June 27** - White Cap tests; Beaver Council nominations; Staff Show (evening program).  
**Fri., June 28** - Friday Night services; Hobby Hubs.  
**Sat., June 29** - Beaver Council Elections.  
**Sun., June 30** - X Games 2002 (All-day program). Sony Playstation, Microsoft Xbox (winner), Sega Dreamcast, Nintendo Game Cube.  
**Mon., July 1** - First Monday cookouts and camp-wide campfire.  
**Wed., July 3** - Section Night.  
**Thurs., July 4** – US Independence Day theme day; Tamakwa 500 (evening program).  
**Fri., July 5** - JT Triathlon; Friday night services; Hobby Hubs.  
**Sat., July 6** – Treasure Island swim.  
**Sun., July 7** – Presentation of the play *Oliver*.  
**Tues., July 9** - JT changeover; Section Night.

**Thurs., July 11**- All-day Surf & Sail; Beaver Council presents Sadie Hawkins (evening program)  
**Fri., July 12** - Treasure Island swim; Friday night services; Hobby Hubs.  
**Sat., July 13** - Amy Sky songfest night.  
**Sun., July 14** - Caribbean Cruise (theme day); Star Search (evening program).  
**Mon., July 15** – Cookouts and camp-wide campfire.  
**Tues., July 16** - Intercamp with Tamarack at Tamakwa; Tamakwa's Guinness Book of Records (evening program).  
**Wed., July 17** - Section Night.  
**Thurs., July 18** - Camper/Staff Triathlon; Tamakwa Unplugged .  
**Fri., July 19** – Camper and staff roller hockey games at Camp Manitou; Friday night services; Hobby Hubs.  
**Sat., July 20** - Long canoe trips return.  
**Sun., July 21** - Mini Colour War, *Good vs. Evil – Battle of the Superheroes*. Teams: Superman, Spiderman, the Incredible Hulk (Winner), Batman.  
**Mon., July 22** - Pack-out day for 1<sup>st</sup>-month campers; Mini-banquet (Senior Girls) Theme: Valentines Day; Presentation of the play *Bye Bye Birdie*.  
**Tues., July 23** - Visitors Day; 1<sup>st</sup>-month campers depart; Staff Bar-B-Q at Bonita.

**Wed., July 24** – 2<sup>nd</sup>-month campers arrive; Cabin night.  
**Thurs., July 25** - White Cap tests; Section Night.  
**Fri., July 26** – Bar Mitzvah ceremony for six Tamakwans on their 13<sup>th</sup> summer at camp.  
**Sat., July 27** - Beaver Council elections (Pioneer Section); *Who Wants to Go to the Portage Store?* (evening program).  
**Sun., July 28** - Tamakwa Fun Fest 2002 (CIT evening program).  
**Mon., July 29** – Cookouts and camp-wide campfire.  
**Tues., July 30** - Great Egg-Spectations (evening program).  
**Wed., July 31** - Scavenger Hunt (evening program).  
**Thurs., Aug. 1** – Visit of Jerusalem Youth Orchestra to Tamakwa; Gender Wars (evening program).  
**Fri., Aug. 2** - Friday Night services; Hobby Hubs.  
**Sat., Aug. 3** – Intercamp with Camp Arowhon at Tamakwa; Presentation of *Saturday Night Live*.  
**Sun., Aug. 4** - JT Triathlon; Presentation of the play *How to Eat Like a Child*.  
**Mon., Aug. 5** – Cookouts and camp-wide campfire.  
**Tues., Aug. 6** – All-day program: *The Iron Chef*; JT changeover.

**Wed., Aug. 7** - Intercamp at Camp Tamarack; Halloween (evening program).  
**Thurs., Aug. 8** - Camper/staff triathlon; Beaver Council presents "Air Bands."  
**Fri., Aug. 9** - Treasure Island Swim; Friday night services; Hobby Hubs.  
**Sat., Aug. 10** - Talent Show.  
**Sun., Aug. 11** - Treasure Island swim; Disco Day; Dance with Xtreme Entertainment (evening program).  
**Mon., Aug. 12** – Cookouts and camp-wide campfire.  
**Tues., Aug. 13** - Casino Night (evening program).  
**Wed., Aug. 14** – All-day Surf & Sail.  
**Thurs., Aug. 15** - Tamakwapalooza.  
**Fri., Aug. 16** - Friday night services; Presentation of the play *Oklahoma*; Colour War break at ballfield.  
**Sat., Aug. 17** - Colour War *Lights Out*.  
**Sun., Aug. 18** – Final day of *Lights Out*; Staff Bar-B-Q at Main Camp.  
**Mon., Aug. 19** - Pack-out Day; Closing Banquet *The Big Top*; Slide-show; Showing of *Spider-Man*.  
**Tues., Aug. 20** – Camp ends as Tamakwans leave for home.  
**Sat., Aug. 24** – Alumni Post Camp begins.  
**Tues., Aug. 26** – Alumni Post Camp ends.









# Defining leadership

Many aspired for positions on this year's Beaver Council but few were chosen. Democracy in action, Tamakwa-style. BY TYLER BURKE

Everything at Tamakwa has a story. Some go back only a few days; others – such as the Beaver Council – predate the memory of everyone at camp, even David Stringer. Like a Students' Council, the Tamakwa counterpart is an elected group of campers who represent the entire camper body, with a rich history.

"It's a big honour to think the camp would choose me to represent them," says Brandon Tobin, Beaver Council president. Being a member of the council brings with it both prestige and hard work. Members prepare evening programs and events for the camp, act as role models for younger campers, and help to keep the campers' spirits up. To that end, this year's Beaver Council organized the *Sadie Hawkins Night* in mid-July with great success. The evening went off without a hitch, other than those made by "Rabbi" Les Hartsman at the marriage booth.

For the three executive members of this year's council (Brandon Tobin, President; Dylan Optican, Vice-President; and Mike Katchen, Secretary), the hard work is rewarded by their annual invitation to Tamagama, a group

of former Beaver Council executive members. Tamagama is itself another venerable Tamakwa tradition dating back to the early 1940s.

The initiation tasks that the members perform always trigger great curiosity. They take place on Adventure Island and, to this day, no Beaver Council member will speak about the details. As a result, speculation is rife among campers and staff about what really happens during the initiation, giving way to new rumours every year.

"It's all for show, for the crowd," says Lee Feldman, 10, of the Tamagama ceremony. An elder camper who wishes to remain nameless adds: "It's not as bad as people think."

Certain venerable camp figures say that while being a member of Beaver Council gave their Tamakwa career a shot in the arm, its impact shouldn't be overstated. "Believe me," says Senior Director Dave Bale, "both Vic and I have been members of Tamagama for years and despite the mystique, it's basically another camp shtick – a meaningful one for the participants – but mainly a unifying one for the whole camp."

What is public is the elaborate and quite beautiful ceremony for the entire camp on the Slope. By the light of simple torches, the ceremony on the Slope when the senior-most Chief (Libby) asks for a sign from Wakonda, the native god. Being the good spirit that he is, Wakonda answers with a spontaneously-ignited campfire. The braves (inductees) are put to a couple of tests including having to define words like "humility" or "cooperation" or "responsibility." Once they have passed the tests, each is given an Indian name depicting their character. For example, Brandon, Dylan and Mike were named Great Blue Heron, Tame Turtle, and Smirking Squirrel respectively.

With such a storied past, the Beaver Council will no doubt have an equally illustrious future, providing for many more Tamagama ceremonies to inspire the campers and staff. If Beaver Council is one of Tamakwa's longest-standing traditions, Tamagama remains one of its best-kept secrets. And we all know how long most things remain a secret at camp.

# Plaque and bright and read all over

Freshly minted symbol of the 2002 summer takes its rightful place in Dining Hall.

If your mom told you one day your name would be up there in lights...well, she was half right. We don't know about the lights, but your name is certainly *up there*...on the 2002 camp plaque. It will forever hang from the dining hall rafters alongside plaques from every camp season going back to Tamakwa's first in 1937.

Each year's plaque is a highly valued piece of history, documenting every camper and staff member who attended that year. Each is also a piece of artwork; typically the project of the art director. 2002 is no exception; this one was the creation of Vicky Mann (with help from Woodwork Director Ric von Neumann), who used wood sculpture to depict an aerial map of camp.

You can see everything from Voyageur Point to Robbie's Point...but don't strain your eyes; there are no skinny-dippers.



# Hook, line and sinker



It was the catch of the day, or more precisely of the season. Mitchell Shecter was a happy camper when in early August he managed to snag this 18-inch small mouth bass under the watchful eye of Head Fisherman Aaron Stoudt. Throughout the summer, the fish were jumping in Algonquin Park as Tamakwa's fishing program enjoyed a major resurgence of interest, no doubt also thanks to Aaron's infectious passion for the pastime.

## Guess who! Place a face from way back



**DEJA VU?** Can you identify the person standing in this photo from the late 1940s? Hint: as you can see from his shirt, the counselor was a track and field runner in those days. He has kept on the move ever since. As a successful New York-based publishing magnate, he travels the world. STOP. Never forgetting his Tamakwa roots, he keeps us posted on his travels. STOP. He manages to send us a telegram along the way from every STOP. (Answer on page 15.)

# New wings of welcome

The latest in a long line of Indian-inspired thunderbirds greets all those approaching Tamakwa's shores. BY DARA GALLINGER

As you round the bend on South Tea Lake and approach camp, it's hard not to notice a solid red, yellow and blue figure perched on top of the boathouse. Though new this summer, the 6-foot high wooden thunderbird actually has deep roots in camp history.

Its predecessor presided over the same hallowed site since 1992 but had started to show its age. Last winter, it was replaced and reconstructed by the artful hands of Ric von Neumann, Len Giblin, and Ken Elder.

"The Thunderbird represents a certain image as people approach camp," says von Neumann, head of wood working and a talented craftsman. "The old rotten thunderbird was a hazard to the boathouse and an eyesore." Ten years earlier, the producers of *Indian Summer* had it made and installed on the boathouse for the filming of the movie.

South Tea Lake has long been home to such an icon. As far back as anyone can remember, there has



always been a Thunderbird at Tamakwa peering out to greet campers, staff and visitors. In the 1960s it was a mere two thin sticks covered by canvas painted to look like a Thunderbird. The design has certainly come a long way.

Ric, Len, and Ken carved the new Thunderbird out of two by eight cedar boards laminated together. Ric's wife, Libby, painted the body and Brandon Boyle painted the wings. The design

came directly from the creative mind of Ric who insists that it does not represent anything specific.

Native Indians however see the Thunderbird as a personification of the energies in nature and the bird is considered highly desirable all over the world. Given the beauty of Tamakwa's site on South Tea, it's no wonder the Thunderbird has chosen it as his permanent home.

# A tall order



Feeding 450 hungry Tamakwans three times a day, seven days a week is no simple operation. But thanks to Guy Tetreault and his devoted team, dining at Tamakwa is a positive experience. BY LAUREN MALLIN

It's 6:10 pm and after a long day of activities, campers and staff congregate outside the Dining Hall porch. They eagerly await Tamakwa's traditional four-word call to dine: "COME AND GET IT!" As soon as a senior staffer utters the command, Tamakwans invade the Dining Hall. Each person rushes through the porch doors to find a seat at their cabin table. After "grace", servers emerge from the kitchen, their food carts laden with food. The feasting is about to begin.

Appearances to the contrary, dining at Tamakwa has a certain charm to it. As a rookie staff member, my first regular meal at camp proved quite an experience. Tired from an afternoon helping my campers unpack their bags, I expected to sit down to a nice, relaxing dinner with my new kids.

Foolish me. Dinner was anything but tranquil. Amid the shuffling of food carts, passing of food trays, constant calls of "Pass the ketchup, please" and requests for seconds, came loud chanting and cheering from each section of the Dining Hall. With slight variations, that's pretty much what I quickly came to anticipate every meal.

If the full-spirited ambiance is inviting, the food itself is no less enticing. Head Chef Guy Tetreault and his staff of 15 work tirelessly, much of it in the hot kitchen, to keep Tamakwans well fed. To that end, they spend several hours preparing each meal, and cleaning up afterwards.

"It's no easy challenge to feed a camp for an entire summer and to keep everybody satisfied," says Guy. "There are more than 400 different tastes and preferences. Everyone wants something special."

This summer, in his continuing effort to accommodate the variety of palates, Guy introduced several innovations to the menu including chicken potpie and chicken balls at meals and chocolate fingers and chicken fingers for evening snacks. The Chinese stir-fry dinner was one of the most popular of the summer. Shephard's



pie left Tamakwans more divided, triggering both positive and negative reactions to this fine blend of ground beef, onions, creamed corn and mashed potatoes.

For my part, I stuck mostly to vegetarian fare for the summer.

**What a feast!**  
Just think; it all had to come over first on the barge

It takes a lot of food to feed a lot of hungry Tamakwans. During the two months of camp, here is what campers and staff consumed, among other things:

- 2,000 liters of milk
- 2,050 boxes of cereal
- 16,000 eggs
- 12,800 chicken balls
- 6,000 grilled cheese sandwiches
- 1,600 kilos of mashed potatoes
- 390 kilos of margarine
- 1,120 kilos of flour
- 22,400 homemade cookies
- 8400 liters of bug juice
- 288 liters of ketchup
- 160 liters of jam
- 4,800 oranges
- 3,200 bananas
- 3,200 popsicles
- 160 liters of ice cream
- 80,000 napkins

One my favorite dishes was the Greek salad. I also appreciated that staple food items such as salad and peanut butter and jelly were always just a call away from any server. To break up the schedule, both cookouts and shore lunches added another appetizing dimension to the camp menu.

Guy, 42, made his debut at Tamakwa in the mid-1980s, working as a chef for the camp's previous catering service. He left Tamakwa to open his own restaurants in Huntsville and near North Bay before returning to Tamakwa's kitchen in 1999 when he formed his own company, West Park Catering. Now he's owner, operator and on-premises chef at his one and only summer client – Camp Tamakwa.

In the off-season, Guy lives in Huntsville, working at the nearby Deerhurst Resort as a banquet chef and also taps trees and makes maple syrup at the resort's Sugar Shack. This year, his daughters, Rebecca (TB3) and Olivia (P1), joined him at camp.

As the summer progressed, I came to appreciate the dining experience at Tamakwa. The food was generally quite tasty and the kitchen's efficiency was impressive, to say nothing of the lively ambiance in the Dining Hall. Looking ahead to life back in the city, a meal without the buzz of the Dining Hall is going to be mighty lifeless compared to camp. Eating just won't be the same.

# How how

Every Friday evening, campers chose a different theme and spoke about it as part of the Shabbat service. Here is a selection.



## Growing

It was six years ago, during my first summer at Tamakwa, and I distinctly remember sitting on the Slope in awe as I watched the Senior Girls deliver their speeches at the Friday services. I thought that the Senior Girls were the coolest people on earth. I looked up to them and admired everything they did. They were the oldest and wisest, the ones who all the girls wanted to be.

To think that I am now a Senior Girl shows how fast time has flown by and how much we have grown. Tamakwa has played a huge part in the growing up process in my life. Returning here every year has allowed me to make friendships and experience things I never thought possible. The people I have met here have profoundly influenced my life and helped me to grow to be the person I am today.

- Alana Faintuch, 15, Cabin 49-6

## First Experiences

Sitting on my bed at Rest Hour, I tried to think of what to prepare for my Friday service speech. For inspiration, I thought of the speeches I had heard in previous years. Things like "Hello, my name is so and so and this is my 8<sup>th</sup> year at Tamakwa," or "When I was told about our topic, I was stumped..." were of no help. This was my first time writing a Friday night speech.

Thinking back to my early years as a Tamakwan, I realized that I never paid much attention at the Friday services. But as I grow

older and my time as a camper dwindles, the importance of reflection dawned on me. I now realize that Friday evenings are not merely a meal at which we are not allowed to cheer but a time for looking back on our experiences of the summer and elsewhere, and thinking of the week to come. This being my first time writing a speech for the Friday service, I hope that what I have said inspires you to reflection and thought, and not on the path that I previously took.

- Solomon Klein, 15, Cabin V-5

## Kindness

Kindness is hip, kindness is fun. In your priorities, make it number one. If you're unkind, you won't succeed. You'll be in the back, not in the lead.

Kindness is something you shouldn't lack. When you are kind, you'll get it all back.

Being unkind is very rude. Try to be kind with a good attitude.

Have an open heart and an open mind. And always remember to remain kind.

Being kind can get you far. That's the way to be no matter who you are. Be kind at Tamakwa, be kind at home.

Thanks for listening and Shabbat Shalom.

- Alana Romoff, 13, Lauren Diamond, 13, and Stephanie Goel, 13, all from Cabin 49-2/3



## Goo-oo-ood morning, Camp Tamakwa!

Or rather "Good afternoon..." Everyday after lunch, campers and staff get a rest. And so does the decibel level, as camp empties and the kids retire to their cabins for Rest Hour. But the airwaves of Tamakwa at that hour are filled with more than just the yodel of loons and the squawk of a raven. If your radio is tuned to 100.1 FM, you're likely to hear the Voice of Tamakwa announcing, "You are listening to C.A.M.P. Radio, the Beaver."

This summer, in keeping with a grand old tradition, veteran on-air host David Stringer (right) and Jamie Kudlats, along with various camper DJs, served up a daily broadcast of news, interviews, comic repartee, music and assorted camp shtick from the studio near the Half Court.







# Half a century high

Every camp should have a David Stringer but Tamakwa is lucky to be the only one that does. **By ROBERT SARNER**

**50**

He is Tamakwa's elder statesman, if for no other reason than having spent far more summers at camp than anyone else. David Stringer is many things to Tamakwa – including creative maven and technical whiz – but this year he added an impressive new credential to his camp bio.

Sure, Marilyn and Libby each have just chalked up summer number 30 at Tamakwa, and the camp paid tribute to six Tamakwans who marked their Bar or Bat Mitzvah here but all that pales next to David's feat of endurance on South Tea.

Since age 2, David has been at Tamakwa every summer except one, but who's counting? We are, of course. Otherwise we wouldn't be giving him so much ink in this issue. After completing his 50<sup>th</sup> summer at camp, we figured we could devote a half-page to him.

David was born into one of Tamakwa's founding families 52 years ago. His father, Omer Stringer, was with Lou Hanlder when the two discovered the site for Tamakwa in 1936 and helped Unca Lou establish the camp. David grew up in Detroit until age 10 when he moved with his family to Toronto, where he still lives today in the off-season. But he has always spent most if not all of each summer on South Tea. The only exception was in 1964 when he worked at a tourist lodge in Michigan.

At Tamakwa, David has performed countless duties over the years. He is most famous for his technical wizardry and the Hollywoodian special effects that he creates for Colour War breaks and other special events. David is also the main man behind the camp's radio and a talented musician, often playing guitar or piano at camp functions. His talents as a TV and video producer are evident in the many movies he's made of camp life. Last year, he produced Tamakwa's first-ever CD-ROM.

In honour of his benchmark

summer, David agreed to answer a few questions about his illustrious first half-century at Tamakwa, much of it as Associate Director.

**What is your oldest memory of being at Tamakwa?**

There is a big rock in front of the Condo at the gateway to Boys Camp. I can still remember playing on that rock when I was about 3. The earliest picture I have of myself at Tamakwa is when I was 2 in 1952.

**What is your favorite spot at camp?**

The Slope. It's the lake that I've been looking at all my life. There is something special about the view from there – the sky, the trees, the lake, even if the highway wrecks it a bit.



First Tamakwan ever to mark 50 summers on South Tea.

**What is your favorite food at camp?**

The hamburger is what I look forward to most. It's slightly naughty, tastes great, has just the right amount of grease, mustard, relish, onion... God, I want one now. My second favorite: cold cuts with tuna fish.

**What is the most important lesson of life you've learned at Tamakwa over the years?**

Even if I still haven't learned it well, it is: "That's camp." We have to learn to constantly make do. We don't have the stuff we actually need. Things go wrong because everything is a temporary setup at camp. We're only in business for eight weeks. Communication inevitably has to break down because, at the pace of life

here, you assume somebody else always does a certain thing a certain way. Or that we've been doing a thing a certain way and then it all falls apart when it all comes together because everybody made the same assumptions. There's no time for communication. It all boils down to: "That's camp." You just have to learn to relax and take it as it's coming.

**What is your most enduring memory of Unca Lou?**

He really didn't let things bother him. I wish I were as good as he was at brushing off trouble and terrible worries. And I saw him through many of them, some financial, some personal. I really remember Lou as the guy who knew how to take it. I never saw him fall apart.

**What is your favorite activity at camp?**

Sleeping, but I don't get to do enough of it. I am not really paid for any specific activity. I'm paid to be here and to take the blame for anything that goes wrong. That's my job description.

**What is your claim to fame at Tamakwa?**

Being the first piano player without a Royal Conservatory degree and the first piano player at camp to not play something classical for Meditation.

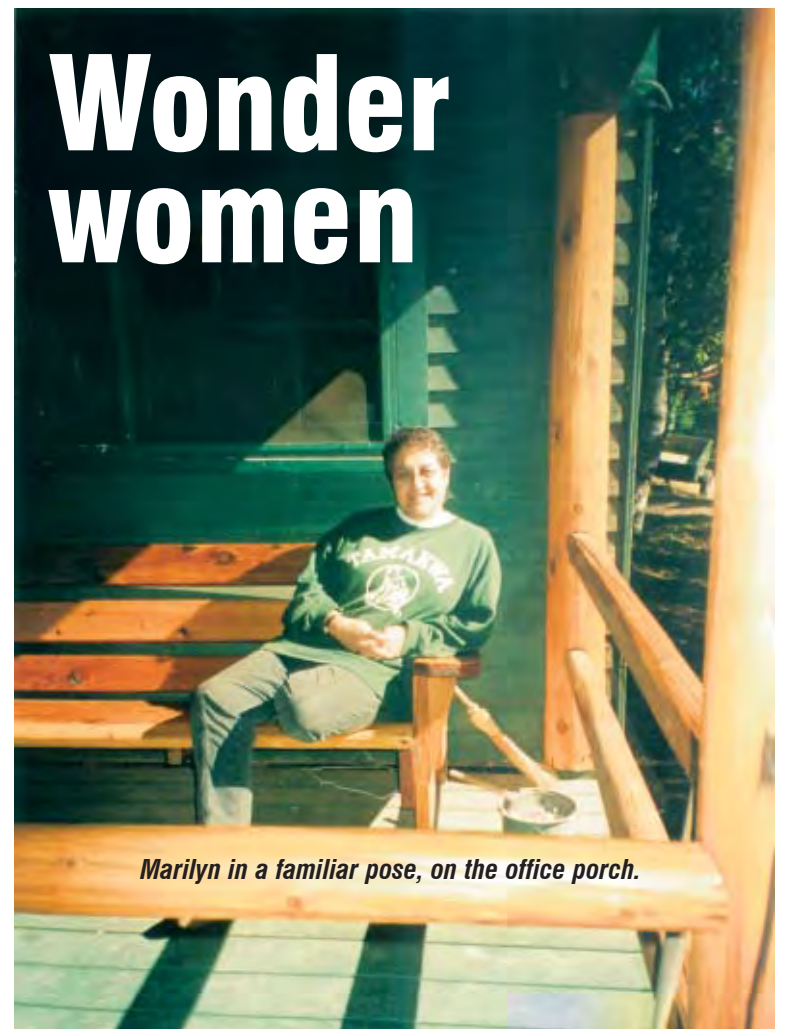
**What is your favorite Colour War break?**

In recent memory, it would have to be in 1998 when we sank the Titanic across from the Slope. It was a beautiful thing. Ken Elder built us a fantastic Titanic, with half of the ship facing straight down into the lake, with its propellers up and portholes lit. We had people in the water with old lifejackets screaming in agony for their lives, with lots of fog. All the camp was brought to the Slope a little after midnight.

They then saw the Titanic go down while we played a very creepy soundtrack including a metallic ripping sound to simulate the rivets breaking loose in the icy waters of the North Atlantic. There was also a floating thing with a twirly light that went round and round.

# STAYING

## Wonder women



Marilyn in a familiar pose, on the office porch.

After checking the calendar, Marilyn and Libby realized that the 2002 summer had special meaning for them – but kept the media guessing. **By ROBERT SARNER**

**30**

It's one thing to be at Tamakwa long enough to enter the exclusive Bar Mitzvah club – no small feat, actually. But it's another thing altogether to celebrate being at camp for 30 years. This summer, two Tamakwa women, both pillars of camp life, marked this rare milestone with little fanfare. Just think of all the camp food they've had to consume all those years.

After three decades on South Tea, Marilyn Mendelson and Libby Sadick von Neumann have earned their bragging rights. Truth is both are too modest to want to draw attention to themselves. That's where I came in.

I coerced them, I twisted their arms, I begged them, I threatened them, I appealed to their spin-doctors, I promised obscene amounts of money if only they would agree to speak to the *South Tea Echo* on the occasion of their historic year. Finally, they could take it no more and relented. Their only condition: that the interview be limited to ten questions.

Given their prominence at camp, Marilyn and Libby need little introduction. But for the record, and for those readers new to Tamakwa, Marilyn is the Assistant Director who first began working at camp in 1969 as a secretary before becoming CIT Director and then Assistant Camp Director. In the early 1980s, she received several years off for good

behavior. A Detroit native, she returned to Tamakwa in 1986 as Assistant Director and since then, whether at camp during the summer or in the Michigan office during the off-season, Marilyn is indispensable to the running of Tamakwa.

Originally from Trenton, Michigan, Libby first came to Tamakwa in 1973 as a camper following the lead of her brother Bill and sister Sue and has spent every summer here ever since. As a staff member, Libby has held virtually every position at camp short of being camp director. She has been a counsellor, section head, tripper, tripping director, photographer, boat driver, gopher, main-



tenance assistant and even helped run the kitchen one summer. No less important, she was also a secretary of the Beaver Council. This year in addition to being Pioneer Section Head, Libby prepared the slide show based mostly on her photos, many of which she also supplied to the Tamakwa web site and the *South Tea Echo*.

Camp would not be the same without Marilyn and Libby. Their tireless devotion to Tamakwa, both its campers and staff and to the site itself, are so intrinsically linked to the heart and soul of Tamakwa.

After yielding to the enormous pressure from the *South Tea Echo*, Marilyn and Libby separately answered the following 10 questions.

# POWER

**What is the biggest difference between Tamakwa today and when you first set foot here?**

**Marilyn:** Parents. They are much more involved and more demanding today. They are much more interested in knowing what their children are doing at camp and what we're doing with them.

**Libby:** More campers, more activities, more trips and more Popsicles than back then.

**Funniest memory at Tamakwa?**

**Marilyn:** One summer in the early 1970s, the entire Head Staff took the morning off pretending to have gone on a canoe trip (*shrecked* camp) leaving me at camp to quickly come up with an all day-program. We called it Woodstock Day. It was an all-day program created in about 20 minutes with the help of Roger Brown and Ed Sachse. Ron Sherman was also involved. He played the doctor handing out M&Ms. The evening program ended up with the creation of Woodstock at Tamakwa. We all had an incredibly wonderful day, playing and laughing a lot. Both the campers and staff had a great time.

**Libby:** Every summer has its hilarious moments. In 1974, I was in 49er-1 and Candi Sherman was my counselor. We loved Candi but we couldn't stand our Senior Counselor. We were in the old Opeongo, which was a "possessed" cabin, and we were possessed children in that cabin. One night while they were gone, we hopped over the Counselors' quarters wall, locked the door from the inside, and proceeded to toilet paper the hell out of their quarters. Then we hopped back over the wall so when they got back to the cabin, they couldn't get in to their room. It was a riot. We felt badly for Candi but we really didn't care about the Senior Counselor.

**Best lesson of life learned at Tamakwa?**

**Marilyn:** How to cope while living with 400 other people. Being at Tamakwa does that for you. In truth, it's been a long time since I learned something new here. Ev-

erything is so ritualistic at camp. Everything repeats itself, the only thing that changes are the faces.

**Libby:** That you don't have to like everybody but that you still can get along with everybody. That's a biggie for me and I learned that at Tamakwa.

**What do you miss most about Unca Lou not still being around at camp?**

**Marilyn:** His playing the violin. Unca Lou's passion was his violin. He didn't play it well but it was just a pleasure to watch him enjoy trying to play it. He played it several times during the summer and would make the children listen, "make" being the key word.

**Libby:** My first summer at Tamakwa was actually Lou's last. I remember his way with children, his love of this place and his strong desire for everyone to have the Tamakwa experience and appreciate the outdoors. I miss the boxing ring. Thanks to Lou, I learned how to box at camp and the importance of self-defense.

**Your favorite time of day at camp?**

**Marilyn:** Between 6 and 8 o'clock in the morning. It's quiet and tranquil for me. The majority of the world at camp is sleeping and the lake is so peaceful and pretty at that hour.

**Libby:** Besides Rest Hour, which is self-explanatory, I love Twilight, free-play just after dinner. As a camper and staff member, it's literally free play, your time, your half-hour or however long it is to do your own thing. I've had some very intense conversations at that time with campers and staff because people are less rushed then. It's a nice time of day.

**What does it mean to you to be a Tamakwan?**

**Marilyn:** Give me another summer to think about that one.

**Libby:** At this point, my parents think it's a cult. Seriously, that's a tough question. On most days, it's a good feeling. It means enjoying nature and learning all sorts of skills I would not have learned in the city. It also means

that as a staff member, and even as a camper, helping that one person having a difficult moment at camp or to show them something they never knew before. That's a good feeling. To be able to say, I helped them get over that bad hump they were having, or I helped teach him how to build a fire or to paddle a canoe or to windsurf. If you can get through to even one person, if you can make a difference even in one person's life, then that summer was worth it.

**Why do you keep coming back to Tamakwa after so many years?**

**Marilyn:** The people, and all my free time. Seriously, I would have to say the people and because it's fun, most of the time.

**Libby:** It's the best way to spend a summer that I've ever experienced. Bottom line: It's always been fun. You meet new people and make new friends. Every summer is different yet the same, if that makes sense. And I love being in Algonquin.

**What is your favorite aspect of**

**Algonquin Park?**

**Marilyn:** Let's put it this way. Tamakwa is probably the only aspect of Algonquin Park that I really know. During the summer, I don't get to leave camp very often. But it's really pretty here.

**Libby:** Just the Park itself – the woods, the trees, the lakes, the history of it, everything. It's a wonderful place. Just being able to go around the Park in a canoe and not see a vehicle for days. There are very few places left on earth where that can happen amid such beauty.

**What is your favorite food at camp?**

**Marilyn:** My favorite staff dining room food is fresh salmon and escargots. My favorite regular camp food is a barbecued hot dog, which is my dinner every Monday.

**Libby:** I'd have to say the jello with the peas and carrots in it. That was a shreck a long time ago. Apart from that, shepard's pie.

**What is the biggest challenge you ever faced at Tamakwa?**

**Marilyn:** Continuing camp

after Lou and (his sister) Esta Kraft died in the early 1970s. It was by far the most difficult thing that I've had to do at Tamakwa. To pick up all the pieces and to keep doing what had been going on at camp. Lou and Esta were Tamakwa and when they passed away, there was no one here to do it anymore. So David Stringer and I attempted to keep it going and then Vic (Norris), David (Bale) and Howard (Perlmutter) came.

**Libby:** Getting camp to agree to the first girls 13-day canoe trip. In 1976, the Trip Director did not want the girls to go out on such a long trip. There were four of us who said, why not? I was a senior camper and until then the longest girls trip was a 9-day. The Trip Director said if there were four girls he would give us a 10-day but if we got six girls we could have a 13-day.

It was a huge challenge to convince the Trip Director and to find the other girls. In the end we did, and ended up having an absolute riot on that trip.



## Taking the jacket

Tamakwa hails six young men and women for their contributions to camp over a 13-year period. BY SAM FLORENCE

13

Each summer at Tamakwa of course is special but some are more so for certain people. This summer was an extraordinary one for Brandon Alexandroff, Lesley Bishin, Mark Cooper, Lindsay Goldenberg, Lisa Kantor and Jason Riback. Each celebrated his or her 13<sup>th</sup> year at Tamakwa, which pays tribute to such loyalty and devotion.

In the Jewish tradition, the 13<sup>th</sup> year in one's life is a milestone. Boys and girls celebrate it with a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, symbolizing the transition from childhood into early adulthood.

At Tamakwa, a camp Bar or Bat Mitzvah represents a person's 13<sup>th</sup> summer on South Tea. It is an honour awarded to such veterans for their growth and commitment to Tamakwa's core values and traditions. The high point takes place on the Slope where friends and relatives of the honourees join the entire camp in a touching Friday evening ceremony.

"It really meant a lot to me that my family could see how Tamakwa has such a special presence in my life," says Lesley Bishin, about this summer's ceremony. "It was important that they could be at the Slope and see camp

in its truest form."

The idea of celebrating a camp Bar Mitzvah dates back 35 years and began almost as a joke. In 1967, for an evening program, camp did a take-off on an old TV game show to celebrate Bruce Canvasser's 13<sup>th</sup> summer at Tamakwa. Entitled *This is Your Life Bruce Canvasser*, his family and friends surprised him by participating in the game show. That eventually led to the first camp Bar and Bat Mitzvahs that were more like roasts, silly and a bit of a mockery. When David "Goody" Goodman celebrated his 13<sup>th</sup> summer at Tamakwa, he received a basketball. Only later, with Reggie Sidell, did the ceremonies become more significant, honouring the person and his or her contribution to Tamakwa.

In 1978, Gary Frankel, a dedicated camper, counselor and canoeist who had a major impact on Tamakwa, celebrated his camp Bar Mitzvah. In his honour, several close Tamakwans awarded him his own cedar and canvas canoe. This tradition followed for Camp Directors Vic Norris in 1983 and Dave Bale in 1984.

Other related customs also took hold. In 1985, with the Bat Mitzvah of Libby Sadick von

Neumann, the now customary Roots leather jacket was presented for the first time. Each week, in a tradition linked to Unca Lou, a different Bar/Bat Mitzvah Tamakwan is honoured by being invited to recite the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm at the end of the Friday night service. At one time, when the number of Bar and Bat Mitzvah honourees was much fewer, the camp also presented each person with a caricature created by Dave Bale.

"When we first began celebrating camp Bar Mitzvahs, we thought there would only be one every few years," says Vic Norris. "We never expected that there'd be two a summer, let alone six."

The event is a moving one for all concerned. "By far, the Bar Mitzvah ceremony had to be the most overwhelming experience of my entire Tamakwa career," says tripper Mark Cooper. "I will never forget it."

There is no way to fully reward these six young men and women for the huge commitment, joy and devotion they have brought to the Tamakwa family. In the end, the least we can all say to them is thank you, *mazel tov*, and how on their achievement – and a reminder not to take the jacket and run.

Libby takes a rare pause on the Slope from her many duties.





# PASSING

## Getting in tune

*Tamakwa never sounded so good until Amy Sky came to camp.* BY ROBERT SARNER

There's something about campers and staff joining in song that makes everybody feel so nice and warm all over. No more so than when the songs are original ones written at camp and performed in such ear-pleasing harmony under the direction of Amy Sky.

In July, Amy took time away from her career as a successful Toronto-based singer/songwriter to come to camp to lead a 4-day musical workshop. Since she first introduced the program to Tamakwa three years ago, it has proved increasingly popular. This time, Amy helped various cabins and staffers write 10 new songs and then assisted them in rehearsing the songs for an evening performance that was as memorable as it was melodious.

For all the pleasure campers have learning at the hands of a pro, Amy says she too is a winner in the process. "It's amazing what I get back from working with the kids at Tamakwa," says Amy, 41, a Juno Award nominee (Canada's version of the Grammys) who has also written songs for many international stars. "There's an old saying: 'When one teaches, two learn', and that is absolutely true at camp."

Amy derives satisfaction from the songwriting workshop on several levels. "When I'm at Tamakwa, the workshop provides a window into the minds of campers," says Amy who just released her 3<sup>rd</sup> CD. "It lets me discover their musical tastes and to see what they're listening to. But I especially love to see kids passionate about creating and getting in touch with their inner voice. I call it the authentic voice which is that transition you make from having thoughts to giving them a voice,

to feeling that what you said is important to feeling that what you said is going to affect other people. And that whole process is what's involved in becoming a writer or any kind of person who translates human experience into art or words or dance or pictures."

In the past, Tamakwa has often played a seminal role in nurturing the talents of future stars in the world of entertainment. During the workshop and concert, Amy said several participants showed special promise for great things down the road.

"Two performers especially impressed me," says Amy. "One was Evany Rosen who I've noticed in previous years. She plays guitar well, takes her songwriting skills seriously and shows a lot of talent. Likewise I was impressed by Andrew Haughton who performed his own song for the show, and who gave me a copy of his CD while I was at camp."

Amy, whose daughter Zoe was a Pioneer camper this year, has lots of links to Tamakwa. Her mother, Sandra Shiner was Swim Director in the 1950s, as were Amy's sister and brother in the 1970s and 80s. Amy first came to Tamakwa in 1975 when she worked as a babysitter for then musical and drama directors Paul and Estelle Steinhauer.

She did not return until 1996 when Dave Bale asked her and her husband Marc Jordan, also an accomplished singer/songwriter, to put on a concert for the entire camp. The concerts eventually led to Amy's songwriting workshop and performance, which has now become an annual fixture on the camp's programming schedule. It is a recent Tamakwa tradition, one that we hope will continue well into the future.

## The one and only

*Living legend Ada Bandalene and her incredible exuberance and love for Tamakwa make the summer complete.* BY ROBERT SARNER

Ada Bandalene has a way with Tamakwans – a special touch that has long earned her their respect and affection. Few people can trigger the enthusiasm from campers and staff that Ada does. This year, like most summers since 1949, Ada was at camp. Though not here for long, she quickly captured everyone's hearts through her various activities and warm, lively presence.

Whether it was in the Dining Hall, at Main Camp or on The Slope, Ada often led the camp in a rousing chorus of singing, cheering, dancing or exercises during her 8-day stay. Every morning before breakfast, Ada conducted her trademark Walk and Talk tours of Tamakwa for campers and staff. She also took part in the CIT performance in the Rec Hall and lent her voice to other events.

Ada first arrived at Tamakwa in 1949 as part of the first-ever group of female campers. For the next 30 years, she only missed one summer on South Tea Lake and that was due to the birth of her son in 1958. Among her various achievements, Ada holds the Tamakwa record for the longest reign as head of waterfront, re-

flected in the many plaques in the Dining Hall sporting her name.

During her visit in July, Ada shared some of her Tamakwa favorites with us: Favorite place in camp? The waterfront. "Probably because I spent 16 years on staff working there." Favorite item in tuck? Sweet Marie candy bar. Best tradition at camp? Gathering at the Slope. "It makes me feel very comfortable when everybody is brought together there." Favorite Tamakwa expression? How how. "That's because it's never changed. We've always said how how, even back in 1949." Favorite animal at camp or in Algonquin Park? The bear. "We used to wake up early and go to the ball-field. Unca Lou always said that if you listen very quietly, you could see the animals because nobody was disturbing them. We often saw a bear or a deer."

Camp founder Lou Handler still looms large in Ada's memory even though it is almost 30 years since he passed away. While at camp this summer, Ada said she thought of Lou frequently. Back home in Florida, she says Lou is never far from her thoughts. In the late 1940s, Lou met Ada in De-

troit at the Jewish Community Center where she was then on the swim team and encouraged her to come to Tamakwa. She did and it changed her life.

"There is a special plaque hanging up in the Dining Hall from the 1950s," says Ada. "It typifies Unca Lou because it features him wearing an Indian headdress. Every Friday night, he would put that headdress on, go down to the Slope and lead the service. It is beautiful to see the Friday service tradition still carried on."

It's no surprise that a song has been written in tribute to Ada. It's entitled *There's Only One Ada Bandalene* and was penned in 1953. Half a century later, it is as applicable as ever. Ada is truly one of a kind in the most positive sense possible.



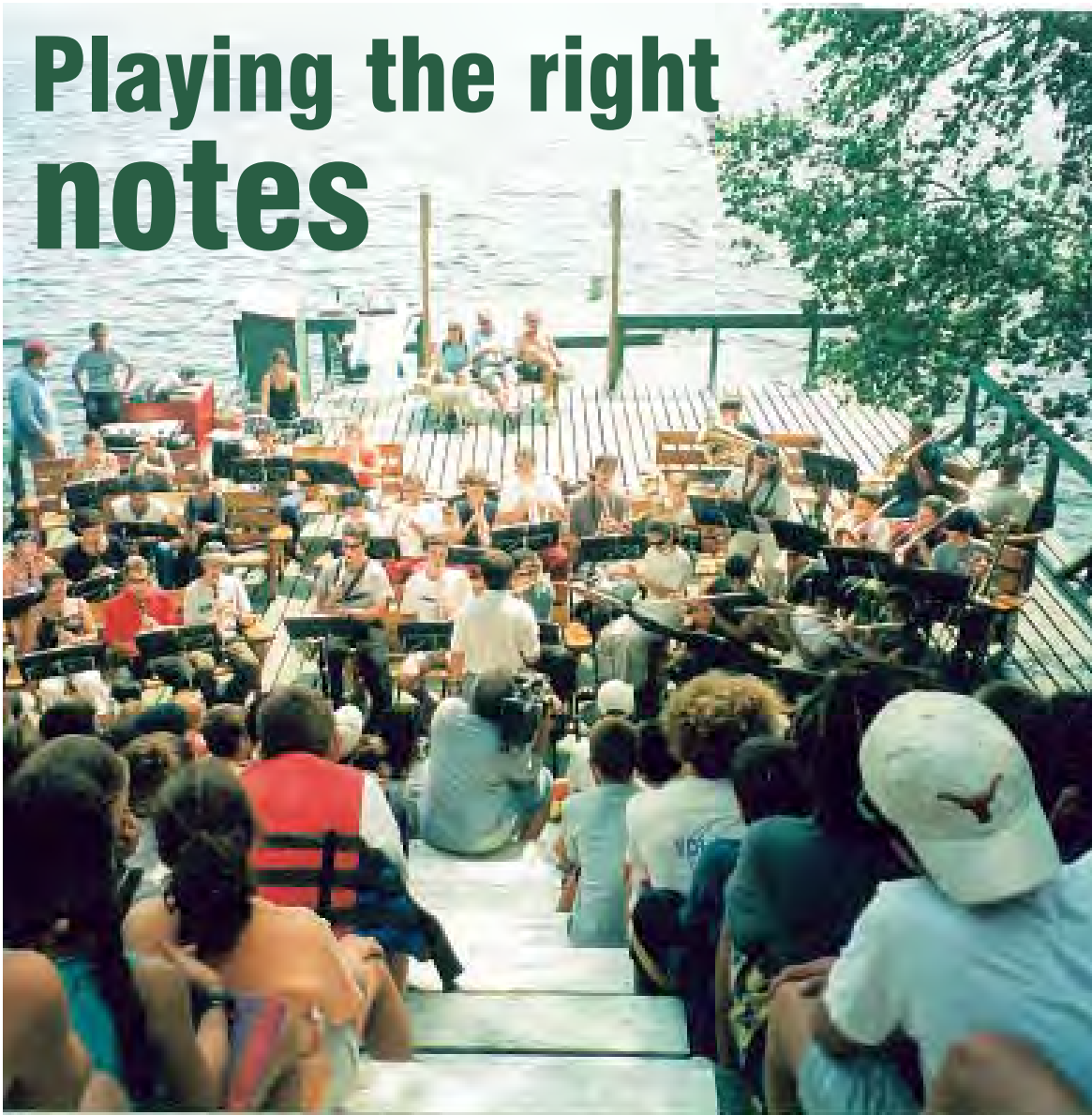
Evany Rosen: A gifted performer

*Raising their voices: Campers join Amy Sky in a memorable evening concert that was the culmination of the 4-day songwriting/musical workshop she conducted at Tamakwa in mid-July.*



# THROUGH...

## Playing the right notes



There was a lot more than music in the air when the Jerusalem Youth Orchestra came to Tamakwa. BY ROBERT SARNER

As Tamakwans assembled on the Slope, campers stared toward the stage in amazement. Veteran staff members, who thought they had already seen every possible kind of shtick at camp over the years, scratched their heads in disbelief. This was, after all, the Slope which for decades has hosted animated Colour War ceremonies, exotic evening programs, subdued Friday services, joyous staff meetings, inspirational fishing classes and other assorted events. But in early August just after lunch, Tamakwans were greeted at the venerable site by something never seen before on the shores of South Tea.

Sitting on the stage was a fully-equipped, professional orchestra all the way from the Middle East tuning their instruments under the direction of their conductor. Only a week earlier, the 37 members of the highly acclaimed Jerusalem Youth Orchestra (JYO) had left Israel where such a setting as Algonquin Park is unthinkable. Senior Director Vic Norris officially welcomed the teenage musicians, who quickly got down to doing what they love to do most. The audience was unusually silent as the orchestra played masterfully under the baton of maestro Albert Piamenta while an Israeli flag fluttered in the wind behind them.

The JYO arrived at Tamakwa from Ottawa where they had given a concert as part of a North American tour. While in Ottawa, they heard news of another terrorist atrocity in their hometown, at Jerusalem's Hebrew University where several of the musicians had relatives at the time.

For the Israelis, it was their first visit to Algonquin Park. The contrast between Tamakwa's tranquil

backdrop and the tense, embattled reality of Jerusalem left the visitors in awe – and grateful for the warm welcome and half-day of carefree fun they had at camp. Apart from their concert, the orchestra members had lunch, went swimming, kayaking, toured South Tea in a war canoe, rode the zip line at the ropes course and spoke with campers.

"Coming to camp was a much-appreciated break for us," says Lital Belinko, 17, who plays the clarinet in the orchestra. "The day before was so stressful because we heard about the attack back home at Hebrew University where my sister studies. I was so afraid something happened to her until I finally got through on the phone to my family in Jerusalem. At Tamakwa, it was so peaceful and we felt so much warmth and support from both campers and staff."

For their part, Tamakwans, too, were touched by the visit. "It put things in perspective for me," says Marc Crane, a 15-year old camper from Farmington Hills, Michigan. "As someone who worries about Israel, the visit really moved me. I know that Israel is going through such a rough period and it must be so hard for people there, especially for kids our age. It was so beautiful to see the Israelis in the serenity of Algonquin Park where there are no worries, where they could have fun, be free and play their instruments. It was also a great experience for Tamakwa."

The visit was organized by Eli Rubinstein who heads Toronto's Congregation Habonim. Eli first put the idea to Senior Director Dave Bale, a former resident of Israel, who conferred with his partner Vic Norris. They agreed that by hosting the orchestra, Tamakwa

could show, in a symbolic way, its solidarity with Israel.

"Tamakwa had never experienced such a visit before," says Vic. "There was something special, even emotional about it. You could just feel and see in the eyes of the Israeli kids and in the way they played the music how important it was for them to experience a beautiful safe haven outside of Israel such as Tamakwa and Algonquin Park. You could just sense it, especially when they played Hatikva, (Israel's national anthem). It was really a very emotional moment for all of camp."

That's putting it mildly for my wife Galya, me and our children. As Tamakwa's resident family this summer from Israel, who when not at camp live – like the orchestra – in Jerusalem, the visit was especially poignant. We were thrilled to be able to help host the JYO at Tamakwa. They made us feel extremely proud of Israel, proud to call it home.

As part of their Algonquin sojourn, the Israelis followed up their Tamakwa experience with a visit to the nearby Bonita cottage where ex-Tamakwans and Roots owners, Don Green and Michael Budman, hosted the visitors for a barbecue dinner, an overnight sleepover at the site and water sports the next morning.

Exactly 24 hours after arriving in Algonquin, the JYO's dream-like stay at Tamakwa and Bonita ended as the troupe left by bus for Toronto for their final performance of the tour. Three days later, the JYO returned to Israel where several of the musicians, both guys and girls, must now suspend their musical career to begin their compulsory two or three-year army service in defense of their country.

# A decade down the road

Film director Mike Binder revisits Tamakwa and discovers that ten years later Indian Summer's impact on camp lives on.

BY JULIE EISEN

As anniversaries go, it's admittedly not the biggest one on the 2002 Tamakwa calendar. Still, several people at camp noted that August marked exactly 10 years since a troupe of Hollywood actors, technicians and assorted hangers-on disembarked on the shores of South Tea to make *Indian Summer*.

A decade later, not only does the movie live on in video rental stores around the world but there are also still many traces at camp of what the producers left behind in October 1992 after two months of filming.

"It's hard for me to come back to South Tea Lake and not think of the making of *Indian Summer*," says Mike Binder, 44, the writer and director of the movie and a former Tamakwan who paid a brief visit to camp this summer. "Although I am not totally satisfied with the way the movie ended up, I'm happy with what it did for Tamakwa, including improving it physically. That's extremely important in life, something I learned from Unca Lou – which is you should always leave a camp site in a better state than you found it."

During the filming, Tamakwa underwent many physical changes to make camp more cinematic. Objects such as the swim tower, the Thunderbird and the Lou Handler plaque in the dining hall, were redone, copied or renovated. Before *Indian Summer*, the swim tower was a box-looking shape which the producers felt was not attractive enough for the film.

"For design ideas, the set designers looked at old photos from the 1940s of the swim tower and other camp icons," says Co-Direc-

tor Dave Bale. "Thanks to the film, the tower was rebuilt and vastly improved from the old one and still benefits the camp. Other things such as the covered bridge, which was rebuilt this year, and the Nature Center were built especially for the movie and still remain part of camp today."

Traces from the movie set continue to resurface a decade later in unexpected ways. "Fake trees were cemented in to make the place look more like real fall," says Libby Sadick von Neumann, who was at camp for most of the filming. "Every once in a while you can still find some artificial leaves that were left behind near Girls Hill behind the laundry shed, at the trip docks or by the Beachers."

The movie, produced by Disney, tells a largely fictional story, but its lasting impact is real. Thanks to the film, people still contact the Tamakwa office after finding it on the internet.

"*Indian Summer* put Tamakwa on the map like never before," says Co-Director Vic Norris. "Ten years later, it remains a wonderful part of camp history, not to mention that many of the structures still stand as symbols of Tamakwa's landscape, most notably the swim tower."

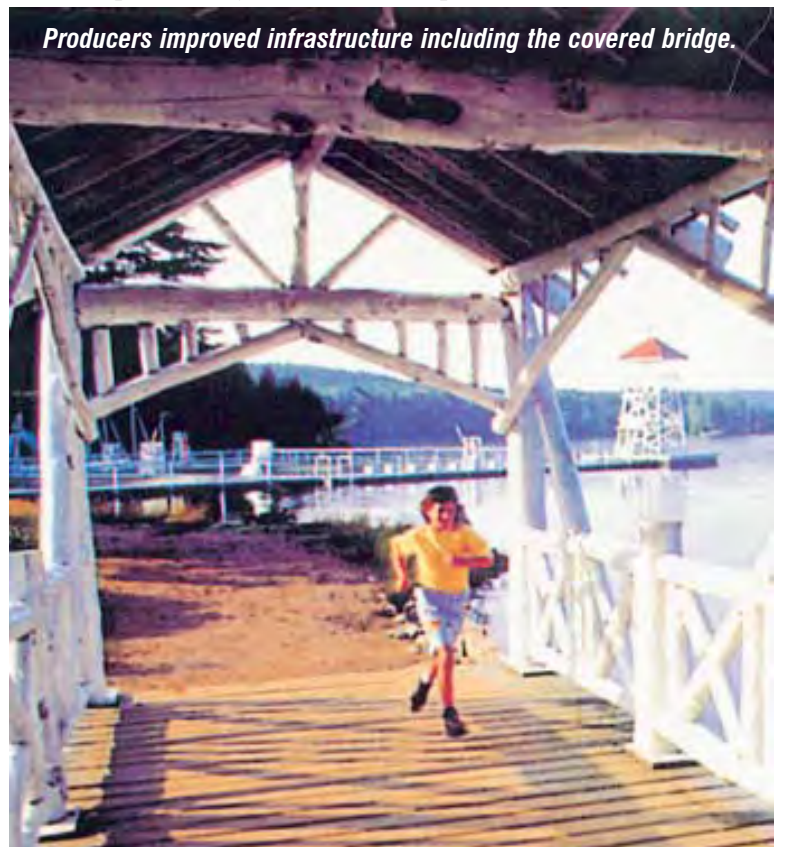
*Indian Summer* captured camp in such a way that it lives on in the hearts of both former Tamakwans and strangers around the world. "The film is a document of camp life, a part of Tamakwa history, indelibly imprinted for others to see and ultimately get a sense of some of camp's lore," says Dave Bale.

Maybe it's about time for the sequel.



Mike Binder returns to where he made *Indian Summer* in 1992.

Producers improved infrastructure including the covered bridge.



# Tamakwans in the 'hood'

*Knock, knock...Who's there? Is it any surprise that some of the finest former campers and staff have stayed close to the source of their best summer memories?* BY ROBERT SARNER

Nothing beats good neighbors, especially when they are Tamakwa alumni. Although their days at camp ended long ago, they are never far from South Tea in their hearts. When summer comes, it's not just in their hearts.

Collectively, they spent decades at Tamakwa and that's where their love affair with Algonquin Park began. That passion never ended as they have spent most of their adult summers at cabins and cottages in the Park. We're glad they've stayed nearby and appreciate their continuing support of camp and warm friendship.

In August, many of these Tamakwa alumni and Algonquin aficionados got together at Bonita to share some old tales over dinner. It was a first-class roster. From left to right in the photo below they are:

## GERRY "HERK" COOPER

In the most Algonquin introduction possible at Tamakwa, Herk's first summer at camp was as a tripper in 1963. His last year at camp was in 1969 and by then he was incurably hooked on the area. In the mid-1970s, he started coming regularly again to the Park, staying at a friend's cabin until 1987 when he acquired a cabin on Smoke Lake.

"The Park was always a real refuge for me," says Herk, 58, a lawyer in Toronto. "The ambiance, the canoe tripping, everything about it struck a chord in me. Unca Lou was definitely influential. In 1964, when I was Swim Director, he made a special effort to take me with him when he went to visit various places in the Park. He knew and understood that I was interested in the Park and he encouraged it." Herk's son Mark was a tripper at Tamakwa this summer while his daughter Rebecca was CIT director.

## MICHAEL BUDMAN

Michael spent 13 summers on South Tea, starting in 1956 as a Forester camper and ending his Tamakwa career as a section head in 1969. "Being at Tamakwa was one of the most important things that ever happened to me," says Michael, 56, co-owner of Roots. "I really loved it but when my time there was up then it became more of a love affair with Algonquin Park."

In 1968, on a tip from Unca Lou, Michael bought a small cabin on the eastern shore of Smoke Lake, which is still his home away from home in the summer. In 1996, Michael and his partner Don Green acquired a lease on nearby Bonita Lake and created a guest facility that they often make available to Tamakwa for camp functions. This summer, Michael's son Matthew and daughter Alex were both at Tamakwa.

## BERNIE GOLDMAN

As a Forester counselor in his second summer at Tamakwa in 1956, one of Bernie's campers was a 10-year-old from Detroit. His name was Michael Budman. Thirteen years later, Michael played a

key role in helping Bernie get his own cabin on Smoke Lake. "After I was at Tamakwa, I could not get Algonquin out of my system," says Bernie, 66, a top cardiac surgeon in Toronto. "I was determined to keep spending my summers up there and thanks to my cabin I'm still in Algonquin every year." Bernie spent four summers as a Tamakwa staff member in the 1950s before returning as the camp's doctor for a few seasons in the early 1960s.

## RENAH BARDENSTEIN

Along with her husband Max, Renah has a strong affinity for Algonquin Park. She was only at Tamakwa for two summers (a pianist and counselor in 1950 and 51) but it was enough to kindle a lifelong passion for the area. "Before coming to Tamakwa, I had never been to a place like Algonquin Park," says Renah, 71, a former piano teacher and the mother of four. "The area is so beautiful, so special, almost mystical, that it gets into your system and you just want to keep coming back here." Since Renah and Max built their cabin in 1968 next to Unca Lou's former cabin on the Oxtongue Channel, they have spent all of their summers close to Tamakwa, and are frequent visitors to camp.

## MAX BARDENSTEIN

Of all of Tamakwa's neighbors, Max can say his history in the area goes back the farthest. He first came to South Tea in 1947 when he worked as Land Sports Director. He returned in 1949 as a section head and in 1950 and 1951 he was co-Head Counselor.

"I fell in love with the Park from the first day that I saw it in 1947," says Max, 74, a retired orthopedic surgeon in Detroit. "One of the things that some of us on staff talked about at the time was to one day have our place in the Park." He finally realized his dream in 1968 when Unca Lou



Inspired by their time at Tamakwa, former campers and staff and their spouses spend as much of their summers as possible close to South Tea. (Clockwise from top left:) Michael and Diane Budman; Max and Renah Bardenstein; Bernie and Fran Goldman with friends, and Don and Denyse Green all remain true to the Park.

offered Max and his wife a place for a cabin near his on the Oxtongue Channel not far from camp. To this day, Max and Renah spend their summers there and often visit camp to say hello.

## GARY TAERK

Starting in 1965 when he was a CIT until 1969 when he was a tripper, Gary spent five consecutive summers at Tamakwa. It would be another 20 years before Gary was to have a summer base again in Algonquin Park. In 1989, he bought a cabin on Smoke Lake where he still spends as much time as possible with his family.

"Tamakwa played a seminal role in my love for the Park," says Gary, 53, a psychiatrist in Toronto. "Being in Algonquin is a state of mind. It also brings back memories of a special time in my life. Being up here helps perpetuate and nurture those positive feelings. I am thankful to have been able to introduce my wife and children to Algonquin." This summer, Gary's son Evan was a tripper at Tamakwa.

## DON GREEN

Little did Don know when he was a camper at Tamakwa in 1963 and 1964, that it and Algonquin

Park would eventually lead him to leave his native Detroit and move to Canada for good. A dream summer job as Water Boy for the Detroit Lions kept Don away from camp until 1969 when he worked on the water skiing staff. For the next 12 years, he spent summers at Smoke Lake with his friend and future partner Michael Budman at the latter's cabin. That's where they laid the groundwork for Roots in 1973. In 1987, after renting a place for several years in the area, Don and his family bought their current cabin on Smoke Lake.

"I really fell in love with Algonquin Park and nature in 1969," says Don, 53. "Since then, Algonquin has played an important part in my development, leading to many good things. There is a very strong connection between Tamakwa, Algonquin, Roots and my life." This summer, Don's daughters Sophie and Deeva were at Tamakwa, the first as a counselor, the second as a camper.

\* \* \* \* \*

Absent from the photo but also present in the neighborhood:

**Charles "Husky" Tator and Carol Tator** met at Tamakwa, eventually married and raised three children who went to Tamakwa. They have a cabin on Smoke Lake next to Bernie and Fran Goldman and visit camp every summer. Husky, 65, a top neurosurgeon in Toronto, worked as a counselor and section head in 1956-58 and then returned in 1966 as camp doctor. Carol, 62, a race relations consultant and professor in Toronto, began her Tamakwa career as a camper in 1949, (the first season Tamakwa accepted female campers), and spent the next nine summers on South Tea before retiring with the rank of senior counselor.

"My love of Tamakwa was transferred to my love for my wife and together we have loved the Park ever since," says Husky.

Standing tall in Algonquin Park (left to right): Herk Cooper, Michael Budman, Bernie Goldman, Renah Bardenstein, Max Bardenstein, Gary Taerk and Don Green.



# D'oh, Raimi

From Ranger 1 to Hollywood, Tamakwa alumnus Sam Raimi – like Spider-Man – scales new heights. BY DAVE BALE

When Sam Raimi was a camper at Tamakwa 30 years ago, he had his counselors climbing the walls. Now he has done the same thing to actor Tobey Maguire.

We're proud to say that Sam was the director of *Spider-Man*, last summer's Hollywood blockbuster. You've probably seen it. If so, did you notice the familiar beaver-cutting-wood emblem up there on the silver screen? You don't have to look too hard to spot the Tamakwa sweatshirt in Peter Parker's pad. (Hint: in true Tamakwa camper tradition, look on the floor. The scene must've been shot before cabin cleanup.)

A Tamakwa prop hidden somewhere in his pictures is Sam's way of "winking" to all his Tamakwa pals out there, starting with the camp T-shirt featured in his cult classic *Evil Dead*. (No Tamakwa T-shirt has never looked so scary since the time Matt Herman tried on a size Small.) That film launched Sam's career 20 years ago and established him as one of Hollywood's most innovative filmmakers.

Of course, we knew him during the 1970s, first as a 10-year-

old leading Ranger 1 on kitchen raids, to his CIT and counselor years when he and David "Goody" Goodman institutionalized "A Spot of Humour" as a morning ritual, to the hours we spent in his Franklin, Michigan basement watching his earliest comic/gory



Director Sam Raimi on the set of Spider-Man

flicks filmed in Super-8.

Since then, we've proudly watched Sam's "real" films with delight – and fright – as he became Hollywood's wunderkind of the horror genre, and further respected for creating *Darkman* and more mainstream films. He produced the popular *Hercules* and *Xena* TV series. As an actor, he played the bumbling boat driver in Mike Binder's *Indian Summer*, filmed at Tamakwa.

Sam directed *The Quick and*

*the Dead*, *A Simple Plan*, *The Gift*, *For Love of the Game*, and his biggest project to date *Spider-Man* for which he was pursued by the big studio executives to make. As we learned in *Spider-Man*, with power comes responsibility. Sam lived up to the task by delivering one of Hollywood's top box office hits of the year and is already working on the sequel.

Another common feature of Sam's films are his brothers, who are also Tamakwa alumni – Ivan who co-writes with Sam, and Ted who acts. But what every one of his films has are the signature elements of Sam's humour and cinematic flare. As a camper he was funny, original, and adventurous. As a filmmaker, he's exactly the same.

On canoe trips in Algonquin – even in his adult life – he has been the master storyteller around the campfire at night, keeping all of us either cracking up or in suspense on the edges of our log seats. Now, he does the same for mass audiences including thousands of loyal Raimi "fanatics". The only difference is, now the darkened movie theatre is his campsite – and the seats are more comfortable.



BSS girls feeling beat on hike to Drummer Lake.

## What a lodge, what a place for retreats

In the off-season, rental groups always wanna, wanna use Tamakwa. BY DAVE BALE

If you think it's quiet when the campers and staff leave Tamakwa in late August, you're right; it is very quiet. But not for long.

When the leaves start changing colours, the bugs are gone, and the Northern Lights put on their best show. That's September, one of the finest times to be in Algonquin. Tamakwa's doors are still open to groups that rent the facility. We've done it all: school groups, recreational clubs, conferences, corporate retreats, and even a wedding.

After our annual alumni Post Camp, Tamakwa has become a home to school groups from Toronto, including the annual fall retreat of the Bishop Strachan School (BSS), the Mabin School a few years ago, and this fall, students from Weston Collegiate Institute. With hikes to Drummer Lake, war canoe journeys to Canoe Lake's Tom Thomson memorial, ropes course training, art classes, evening programs on the Slope, and late night campfires, the students spend a few days trading in their textbooks for outdoor recreation and a bit of that old Tamakwa spirit.

"It's way better than sitting in a classroom," says Gaylen Burke, a grade 9 student at Weston. "It's so beautiful at Tamakwa and now

I know what 'biffy' means."

For many years, Tamakwa was home base for the Sunrise Youth Group, a non-profit program for young people with developmental handicaps. Their week on South Tea each year allowed them to experience Algonquin's pleasures – canoeing, fishing, sports and other things – that kids without special needs often take for granted. The ramps and rails on some of the camp's facilities were installed to facilitate wheelchair access for Sunrise.

The Council of Outdoor Educators of Ontario found Tamakwa to be a superb venue for one of its annual conferences. A typical day included waking up early for a misty morning canoe paddle, breakfast in front of a crackling fire in the dining hall hearth, outdoor cooking session at the Beachers, slide show in the Rec Hall after dinner and a barge ride at midnight to watch an incredible display of Northern Lights.

"Where else can you do all that in a day?" asks one organizer. "Besides, the ropes course is excellent for team building, not to mention the great food."

We're always networking. If you are involved with schools, businesses, or organizations looking for an outdoor center up in Algonquin, Tamakwa is the place.

## They're at the Post...

They're off! Post Camp that is, home to the real-life Indian Summer. BY CRAIG PERLMUTTER

Imagine being at camp and you're allowed to drink pop and eat candy anytime you want. Every period is individual choice... or you can just have a Z-machine. The phone booths are open and you can call your parents (or broker) anytime you want. There's campfire every night. No ETBs. No cabin cleanup. No counselors. Is this heaven? No,



Post Camp organizers Craig Perlmutter and Matt Egrin ham it up for the camera.

it's called Post Camp and here's the catch: it's just for adults – Tamakwa alumni and friends of alumni.

After camp, 80 of these lucky folks reunited on the shores of South Tea for the third year in the revival of this post-season ritual. Post Camp started in the early 60s when a group of loyal alumni convinced "Unca" Lou Handler to let them spend a few days at camp in late August reliving their childhood. That tradition was carried on through the 80s by organizers Mel Borock and Mickey Golden before interest waned in the 90s. But as

everyone knows, it never wanes at Camp Tamakwa.

So, Matt Egrin and I decided to see if we could bring it back. Sure enough, we found lots of interest among Tamakwans for a return of Post Camp.

"Post Camp was a truly wonderful experience," says Linda Kahan. "It had been 25 years since I had last been to camp and the emotions I felt when we rounded the bend and Tamakwa first came into my sight were unbelievable."

For some, Tamakwa memories seem like a lifetime ago...until

now. "It is often said that you cannot go back to the past, but to me Post Camp proved that I could go back," says Donn Resnick. "The spirit, the people and the facilities (except for relatively minor changes) were exactly what I left more than half a century ago."

If you think watching 6-21 year olds running around camp smiling and enjoying themselves makes it all worthwhile, you should see the 22-75 year olds doing the exact same thing. From morning activities to shore lunches to hikes to Drummer Lake to medley marathons to BBQ dinners to crazy evening programs, Post Camp's busy schedule brings Post Campers back to their Tamakwa roots.

Even those without such roots, like friends of alumni, become smitten with Tamakwa. "Your camp is one of the best places I've ever been," says Jen Arkin. "I am only sorry for never having those experiences as a kid. I am thankful I could come to Tamakwa and enjoy what it has to offer."

Equally, it brings joy to the camp's leaders to once again share camp with its 'fanatics'. "Regardless of their age," says Senior Director Dave Bale, "they all sing the same songs, tell the same stories, have the same bonds of friendship, and are just as excited to be here as the kids today. That's very gratifying."

Matt Egrin and I have enjoyed every minute of planning Post Camp and we hope to continue to share Tamakwa with many more Post Campers and friends in the future. May the great Post Camper of all good Post Campers be with us 'til we meet again...



CITs of 1977: Still doing land duty 25 years later – and loving it.

**Mystery guest revealed**

**No more hints... Time's up.** Several pages back, we challenged readers to name the counselor in the vintage photo. Astute readers and those with a long memory should have guessed that the face in question belongs to none other than the legendary George Hirsch. Following his many summers at Tamakwa, George went on to a highly successful career as a magazine publisher, and a prolific writer of telegrams. Based in New York, George is currently Publisher of *Runner's World*. Previously, he was Publisher of *New York Magazine* and *New Times Magazine* and Assistant Publisher of *Life International*. He was also a founding sponsor of the New York City Marathon.

Now, can anyone name any of the campers in the photo on page 6?

**Have we got news for you!**

*But to get it, you have to send us your email address, made easy by visiting our website.*

**Y**oung folks, old folks, alumni, campers, parents, and staff: Please send us – or update – your current email address. If you don't have one, we'll settle for your postal address.

We want to keep in touch with you, whether it's with news for alumni, for staff, or for campers and parents about the coming summer. To make this easy, visit the "Carving Log" section of our website at [www.tamakwa.com/carvinglog\\_update.htm](http://www.tamakwa.com/carvinglog_update.htm)

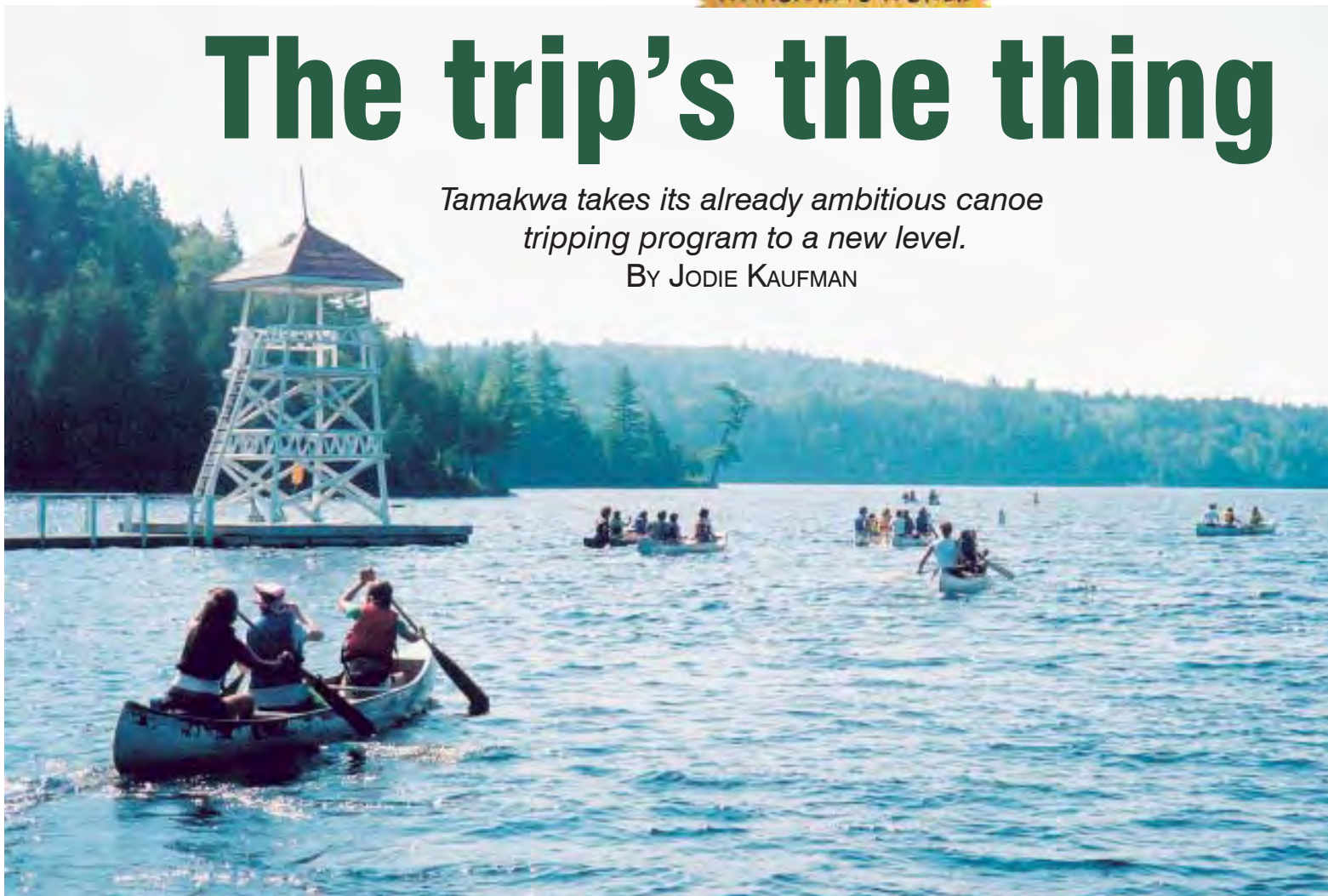
By the way, our website is almost like being at camp. Go to the *web* and use your *mouse* to *log* on. You won't need a *pointer* to get there, nor a windsurf board to *surf* our site. You'll experience the SIGHTS (slide-show, screen savers, brochure); the SOUNDS (Tamakwa sound library), and the SMELL (actually no, you'll have to imagine that) of camp. It's lots of fun, loaded with information, and full of nostalgia. It's also a way for you to refer new campers, new staff, and new off-season groups to Tamakwa.

So, what are you waiting for? While sitting at your computer, you can have free play at [www.tamakwa.com](http://www.tamakwa.com)

# The trip's the thing

*Tamakwa takes its already ambitious canoe tripping program to a new level.*

By JODIE KAUFMAN



Stroke, paddle, paddle, paddle, stroke, paddle, paddle... These words are all too familiar at Tamakwa whose strong emphasis on canoe tripping is legendary. The camp's location in Algonquin Park is ideal for a great tripping program, allowing it to send out trips right from its own shores. Campers spend all of their time tripping as opposed to spending hours traveling to a put-in point and later from their destination back to camp.

"We are so lucky to be in the Park," says veteran Tripping Director Len Giblin.

"We don't have to spend extra travel days in a bus or van like many other camps because the park is our back door."

This summer, Tamakwa had its biggest tripping staff ever, with 14 trippers and four trippers-in-training. They were kept busy, accompanying more than 100 cabin trips and 13 long trips.

"One of the highlights of the tripping program is its staff be-

cause so many are Tamakwans who have come up through the ranks over the years," adds Len. "This reflects how successful the program is, producing our own staff and not having to look elsewhere."

Fourth-year tripper Mark Cooper is nothing if not passionate about going into the bush. "As a camper I never had a bad time on a trip, so I knew that tripping was the right job for me at Tamakwa," says Mark. "I'd like to think I have helped make many campers' summers by showing them a good time on a trip."

"Tripping usually makes or breaks a camper's summer," adds Mark. "I'd like to think I have helped make many campers' summers by showing them a good time on a trip."

At Tamakwa, tripping is mandatory for campers. "Canoe trips encompass so many of the broader goals of camping," says Len. "These include teamwork, func-

tioning in peer groups, completing a challenge, spending time with friends and doing something totally different from other activities done at school or cottages."

This summer, many campers were eager to tackle something more challenging than regular cabin trips. As a result, the four 15-day, five 13-day and four 10-day trips attracted more participants than ever.

Len said he hopes to send out 18-day trips in the future. To that end, first year 49ers and Voyageurs will go on 13-day trips. Junior-senior campers will go on 15-day trips and senior campers will head out for 18 days. This summer the senior campers did not have previous experience of a 15-day trip, so the 18-day trip did not take place.

To gain the coveted position of camper or staff on a long trip, Len and other head staff go over prior trip evaluations. These include comments on camp members' paddling and portaging ability,

enthusiasm, site skills and how the prospective candidate gets along with others on a trip.

The fortunate ones who get the chance to participate can't stop raving about their experiences after returning from their sojourn in the wilderness. "I loved the experience of carrying a canoe, portage after portage uphill in the smoldering heat with man-hungry bugs," says two-time 13-day staff participant Caillianne Beckerman. "Where else can you get that kind of crazy challenge?"

First-year Voyageur Jason Orley was equally enthusiastic about long trips. "They are like nothing else," says Jason. "They are fun, the food is awesome and they let me get away for awhile, just me and a few other people. It's a lot quieter and it tests your abilities."

These two lovers of tripping sum up the goal of Tamakwa tripping – fun, camaraderie and challenge in the beautiful Algonquin wild.

## You win some, you lose some

*Arch-rivals go head to head in summer intercamp action.*

By JEFF AVIGIAN

Being an avid sports fan from Boston, I have seen many great rivalries in my life. The Lakers and Celtics of the 1980s, the Bruins and Canadiens, and of course the Red Sox and the Yankees. But none of these prepared me for the rivalry I witnessed this summer between Tamakwa and Tamarack, two camps who have been hotly competing against other for years. This summer was no different.



Tamarack came to Tamakwa in mid-July to complete in 13 sports. By the end of an intense day, Tamakwa emerged the victor, posting eight wins to five losses. This was the home team's first win in several years. The Tamakwans swept both girls and boys basketball and won girls volleyball for the first time in recent memory. Tamakwa also prevailed in archery, swimming, tennis, girls under-12 soccer, and hockey. The Green Machine was in fine form.

A few weeks later, 55 eager Tamakwans left South Tea for a one-hour bus ride to the less inviting confines of Tamarack. The result was less favorable this time as the visitors mustered only five wins in the 12 sports in which competitions were held. Tamakwa won volleyball, hockey, archery and tennis for the second straight month, and also recorded a victory in sailing. Both the boys and girls basketball games were exciting. The girls led for most of the game before losing by three. The boys led at halftime before letting it slip away in the last few minutes.

Regardless of the results, it was a great experience for both sides, one the kids will cherish forever. For my part, I will never forget the class and competitive spirit the Tamakwans demonstrated in both victory and defeat. The next time I sit in Boston's Fenway Park when the dreaded Yankees come to town, I will surely think of two magical days during the summer of 2002 when the two greatest rivals of Canada competed like no other.

## Masters of the canoe

*It's hard to make the grade when vying for the camp's most prestigious award. In 2002 several succeeded.* By KYLE STONE

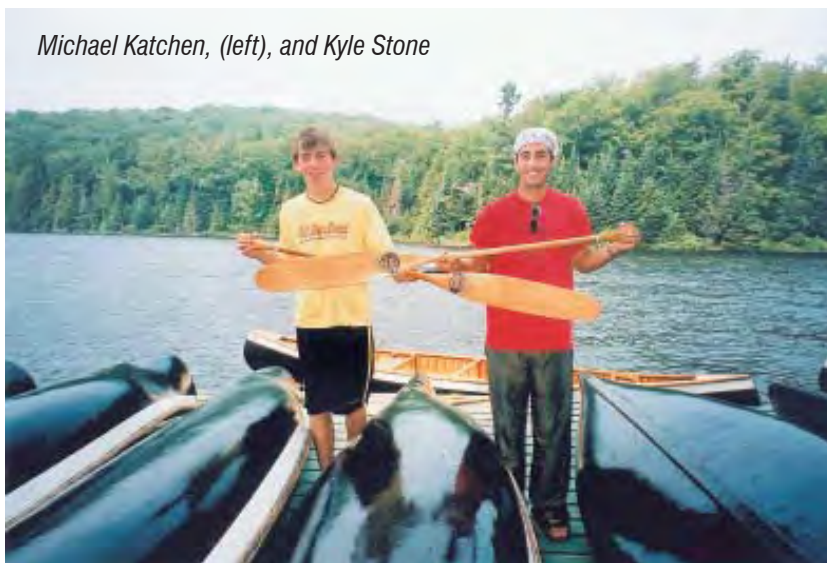
As a newcomer to Tamakwa this summer, it quickly became apparent that this is a place rich in hallowed customs and cherished traditions. Of these, one of the most treasured – and especially meaningful to me – is the Voyageur Canoeist award.

For a camp so steeped in Algonquin Park tradition, canoeing has pride of place at Tamakwa, reflecting its origins in the 1930s. Without canoeing and canoe trips, Tamakwa would not be Tamakwa.

To help campers and staff master canoe manoeuvres and to achieve superior canoe knowledge, Tamakwa's founding fathers initiated the Voyageur Canoeist test, which, 65 years later, still commands the highest prestige of all such awards at camp.

The Voyageur test dates back to the days when one could find master canoeist and Tamakwa co-founder, Omer Stringer, on the shores of South Tea. Since then, the exact requirements for the award have evolved somewhat, but the basic goal remains the same: to move the canoe showing grace, style and strength while also demonstrating a sound knowledge of canoe theory.

To maintain the high standard and strong sense of challenge



Michael Katchen, (left), and Kyle Stone

behind the test, the panel of judges is comprised of previous recipients of the Voyageur award. "The objective is to move the canoe showing a sense of dominance over the water and the elements," says Senior Director Vic Norris, himself a Voyageur Canoeist and therefore also one of the judges.

When the 2002 summer began, only five people at camp – in addition to Vic – were Voyageur Canoeists: Brandon Alexandroff, Leslie Bishin, Max Cherney, Dara Gallinger and Amy Sacks. In subsequent weeks, the club expanded to include three

newcomers: Michael Katchen, a 14-year-old camper; Jon Klein, a counsellor; and yours truly. For me, it was beyond a doubt one of the top highlights of the summer.

Likewise for Michael Katchen, attaining the award was an extraordinary achievement, especially at his age. "Becoming a Voyageur canoeist was unquestionably the pinnacle of all my Tamakwa experiences," says Michael. "That says a lot given all the other great moments I've had at camp."

Nothing beats the thrill and satisfaction from working hard to achieve one's goal – and joining a distinguished Tamakwa tradition.